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## U.N. forces pound Aideed targets, start disarmament

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — The United Nations struck back hard Saturday against a Somali warlord accused of masterminding a bloody ambush of its peacekeepers a week ago.

The pre-dawn U.N. air and ground strikes targeted General Mohammed Farah Aideed's radio station in southern Mogadishu and four of his weapons storage sites on the outskirts of the city.

The flash of rockets lit up the pre-dawn sky as helicopter gunships blasted away at tanks and other vehicles trying to head into the city. The assault continued into the morning.

The U.N. attack was in retaliation for last week's ambush that killed 23 Pakistani U.N. troops and crippled relief efforts aimed at restoring order to this troubled East African country.

While insisting they made no attempt to arrest Gen. Aideed, U.N. officials made it clear he was the target of their wrath and suggested his detention may come later. Gen. Aideed has denied ambushing the Pakistanis.

An Aideed aide was captured by Italian troops, according to the Italian Defence Ministry in

Rome. The ministry did not release details on the arrest or the name of the aide.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton said the allied troops suffered no casualties. He said the attack was "essential to send a clear message to the armed gangs" in Somalia.

The United Nations and the United States refuse to tolerate this ruthless disregard for the will of the international community," Mr. Clinton said in his weekly national radio address.

Mr. Clinton said that while U.S. and U.N. efforts in Somalia have been successful, "there remains a small but dangerous minority of Somalis who are determined to provoke terror and chaos."

"Last night's action was essential to send a clear message to the armed gangs... and to strengthen the effectiveness and the credibility of U.N. peacekeeping in Somalia and around the world," he said.

It was Mr. Clinton's first use of military force. He took over the stewardship of the deployment of U.S. troops to Somalia from former President George Bush, who ordered them there in December

to restore order so relief agencies could feed the starving population.

"The world thanks them and all other U.N. forces in Somalia for their service, for striking a blow against lawlessness and killing, and for advancing the world's commitment to justice and security," Mr. Clinton said.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, speaking in Istanbul, Turkey, said the city's radio tower, water reservoir and cigarette factory were destroyed.

"The operation seems at this point a success," he said.

The cigarette factory was used as a firing position by Somalis in last week's ambush of a Pakistani company on a routine inspection of a nearby arms storage site.

Turkish General Cevik Bir, chief of U.N. troops in Somalia, said weapons were stored at the radio station, which was destroyed. He said the attack began before dawn to avoid civilian casualties.

Despite capturing tons of ammunition, tanks, artillery pieces and other military hardware, U.N. officials acknow-

(Continued on page 10)



'COLLATERAL DAMAGE': A Somalia man looks at damage at his house near a weapons depot in Mogadishu which was attacked by U.S.-led U.N. forces Saturday (AFP photo)

## Delegates leave for Washington

AMMAN (J.T.) — Several members of the Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli bilateral peace talks left for Washington Saturday to participate in the 10th round of talks due to open June 15.

The delegation will join Jordan's Ambassador to the U.S., Fayez Al Tarawneh, who was Saturday named by the Cabinet as head of the delegation, succeeding Abdul Salam Al Majali who became prime minister May 29.

The Cabinet also replaced

Jawad Anani, who became minister of state for cabinet affairs, with Marwan Dudin. Mr. Dudin had served as minister of the occupied territories affairs before Jordan severed legal administrative links with the West Bank in July 1988.

The Council of Ministers also named Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, former minister of labour and until recently head of the U.N. Economic Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), as member of the delegation. Dr. Abdul Jabbar replaces Talal Sataan Al Hassan,

who became minister of state for foreign affairs May 29.

Major-General Tahsin Shurdom, head of military intelligence, replaced Lieutenant-General Abdul Hafez Mirai in the team. Gen. Mirai became chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces two months ago.

Other members of the 14-member delegation included Munther Haddadin, former head of the Jordan Valley Authority

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## Rafsanjani coasts to second term

TEHRAN (Agencies) — President Hashemi Rafsanjani held an expected landslide lead in presidential election returns Saturday, but the Iranian leader will face daunting economic and political challenges in his second term.

An economy still reeling from the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war was on the minds of most voters in a lackluster election that pitted Mr. Rafsanjani against three little-known candidates.

"Of course, Rafsanjani will be the president and many people like him. But one man cannot change everything, especially in Iran. I just hope that he can do something about bringing prices down," housewife Fataneh Kimia said Saturday as she returned home from shopping.

Ahrez Askari, a salesman at a pharmacy, was more cynical. "Why should the next four years be different from the past four years," he said.

With 10.9 million of Friday's

votes counted — more than half the returns — the Interior Ministry announced that Mr. Rafsanjani had 6.9 million, or 63 per cent. His closest rival, ex-Labour Minister Ahmad Tavakoli, had a little under 2.7 million, or 24 per cent.

One of them, a university chancellor Abdullah Jafar Ali Jasebi, sent a letter congratulating Mr. Rafsanjani on his "certain victory," the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said.

"He wished success for Rafsanjani in materialising the sublime aspirations of the Islamic republic," the news agency said.

The agency did not indicate the percentage of votes counted, but the figure announced at midday would be about 23 per cent of eligible voters.

Final results were not expected until Sunday, the report said. Mr. Tavakoli, who has strongly attacked Iran's heavy-handed bureaucracy in his campaign for lean, cost-cutting government,

appears to have attracted a protest vote from poorer provinces that often complain of central government neglect.

The challengers lacked Mr. Rafsanjani's power base and his stature as a member of the inner circle of aides of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, founder of the Iranian revolution.

Iranian leaders turned the vote into a virtual plebiscite on the continued popularity of the 1979 revolution, which Mr. Rafsanjani has cautiously steered towards greater moderation and realism.

They urged voters to come out in strength to show that their commitment to the revolution has not diminished despite growing economic hardships.

Voting was mostly sluggish in most Tehran polling stations visited by journalists on Friday. It was extended by four hours until 10 p.m. to encourage more people to vote.

(Continued on page 2)

## Husseini: No accord on interim step

AMMAN (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestinians cannot even agree on an intermediary step towards peace for fear of where it will lead them, the head of the Palestinian negotiating team has said.

A five-year interim period of autonomy for the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip must eventually lead to a Palestinian state, which Israel opposes, Faisal Husseini said on Jordan Television Friday.

"The declaration of principles and the start of the interim autonomy period should be the basis for the creation of an independent Palestinian state," he said.

The Palestinians and Israelis, scheduled to start their 10th round of direct talks Tuesday, have so far failed to agree on an interim solution and a declaration of principles charting their negotiations.

The Israelis "hope this period is established on a basis which cannot lead in the future to the creation of a Palestinian state," Mr. Husseini said. "There lies our disagreement."

In Washington, U.S. officials and Palestinian negotiators met Friday for a second day to prepare for the resumption of the peace talks next week, the State Department said.

No details of the three-hour meeting were given. A spokesman for Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Edward Djerejian said it was hoped another meeting with the Palestinians could be held before the talks resume on Tuesday.

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said after the first meeting Thursday that the Palestinians sought assurances that there had been no change in basic U.S. positions on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"We did discuss the mechanism and the way to proceed in discussing a declaration of principles," Dr. Ashrawi said.

## Kuwait sentences 10 to death

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait's state security court on Saturday sentenced 10 Jordanians to death for helping Iraq's invasion, the second time in a month Kuwait has imposed capital punishment for occupation-related crimes.

The court last week sentenced to death five Iraqis for trying to persuade Kuwaitis to join Iraq's ruling Baath Party during the seven-month occupation in 1990/91.

It also sentenced to death in absentia Kuwaiti Colonel Alaa Hussein Khafaji for agreeing to become Kuwait's prime minister under Iraqi rule. He is believed to be living in Iraq.

The official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) described the 11 as members of the armed wing of the Arab Liberation Front (ALF) and said they had helped Iraq combat Kuwaiti guerrilla resistance forces.

The agency named the 10 as: Mohammad Ali Ahmad, 20, Basil Alai Ahmad, 22, Imad Al Din Mohammad Nimr, 29, Akram Shakir Ahmad, 26, Al Mutaz Billah Mohammad Salim, 20, Basim Hassan Mohammad, 23, Hussein Rashid, 22, Muayyad Yassin Hussein, 23 Mohammad Isa, 19.

The 10 were also fined 2,000 dinars (\$6,600). The 11th man was named as Husam Mohammad Rashid, 18.

The state security court last year began trying the 11 who were all born in Kuwait but held Jordanian passports, Palestinian sources said.

## New page expected in U.S.-Jordan relations

By Nermeen Marad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein leaves for Washington today on an official visit which is expected to open a new page in U.S.-Jordan relations following the election of a new Democratic president and periods of strain between the two countries, the most extreme of which took place during the Gulf war and crisis.

Other than meeting President Bill Clinton for the first time on June 18 and conferring with top administration officials, the King will also be holding important meetings with influential congressional leaders and groups.

"The meeting with President Clinton is going to be very important, since it will be first between the two leaders," a Jordanian official said. "But

we likewise attach great importance to His Majesty's meetings with congressional leaders, which should finally clear the air between Jordan and the U.S. following the Gulf events of 1990 and 1991."

The King will be meeting with the full Senate on June 17, an event which was organized by majority leader George Mitchell and minority leader Robert Dole. The King's schedule will also include meetings with the Foreign Affairs Committee (46 members), the Appropriations Committee and the Sub-Committee on Foreign Operations Committee (10 members) as well as selected members in both houses of Congress. The King will also meet with House Speaker Robert Foley.

King Hussein, speaking to reporters here last week, expressed hope that his trip to the U.S. would lead to better U.S.-Jordanian relations in view of the new administration's declared appreciation of the Kingdom's democratization process.

"Clearly the U.S. administration is interested in the visit, and so am I, since it comes at a time when a new administration which raises the motto of democracy and human rights has taken over," the King said.

Back in April, President Clinton himself praised "Jordan's commitment to the broadening of political participation in (the) country and the ongoing liberalisation of Jordanian society." The president's comments came at a ceremony at the White House during which Jordan's newly-appointed ambassador to the United States, Fayez Tarawneh, presented his credentials.

President Clinton pledged

then that the Kingdom's "continued commitment to this course of action will strengthen our bilateral relationship."

The King, who will be accompanied on his trip by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and a team of officials and advisers, is scheduled to hold separate meetings with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Secretary of Defence Les Aspin and National Security Advisor Anthony Lake.

In the course of preparations for the King's meeting with the American president, a full schedule covering different levels of the decision-making process in the U.S. was set up to include all aspects of bilateral relations and economic cooperation.

Relations between Jordan and the U.S. soured during the Gulf crisis when the Kingdom

was perceived to be taking Iraq's side in the conflict with the U.S.-led coalition partners. But, according to Jordanian officials, "the air has been cleared largely because of the democratisation process in the Kingdom" and also because of Jordan's full compliance with sanctions imposed by the U.N. against Iraq.

During his stay in Washington, which is expected to continue until June 25, King Hussein will also address the Brookings Institute and participate in prestigious television talk shows.

After that, the King will travel to Rochester, Minnesota, to undergo routine medical checkups after medical reports indicated that he had fully recovered from the operations he underwent in Mayo Clinic last year.

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## U.N. guards to stay on in northern Iraq

By Mariam M. Shabin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

BAGHDAD — The United Nations has decided that the 300 U.N. guards stationed in northern Iraq will remain there for "at least" another six months, according to U.N. personnel and members of the non-governmental organisations working in Iraq.

They said the decision was made at a U.N. meeting in Geneva last week after donor nations made their financial contributions to the U.N. and the NGOs' work in Iraq conditional on the continued presence of the guards.

"Their prime concern was that the U.N. guards stay in northern Iraq and they made their donations conditional on that point," said a senior member of the British relief agency, Oxfam.

The U.N. decision contradicts earlier assumptions by the government in Baghdad, which had been told by U.N. officials that the guards would be phased out because the U.N. could no longer afford their presence in the predominantly Kurdish parts of northern Iraq.

Most foreign observers in Iraq had attributed Baghdad's preliminary agreement to extend the "memorandum of understanding" for another six months to the U.N.'s promise to phase out of the guards.

The memorandum is the "pact" between the Iraqi government and all NGOs and

U.N. agencies working in Iraq.

In early May, the Iraqi government was told by U.N. officials stationed in Iraq that the 300 U.N. guards stationed in the north, where Baghdad has effectively lost governing control, would be phased out at 50 at a time.

Baghdad was pleased. Many Iraqi government officials said they felt a reconciliation with the U.N. and the West was about to begin. As if to reciprocate before the U.N./West even made its first move, the Iraqis told U.N. officials in Baghdad on May 24 that the "memorandum of understanding" was being extended by six months for "emergency aid and relief only."

Rehabilitation projects would be allowed on a "case-by-case" situation because rehabilitation projects are often long-term.

On May 25, the U.N. Security Council promptly maintain full economic sanctions on Iraq until its next meeting in the first half of July.

The decision not to lift or ease the sanctions was seen as a let-down in Iraq because there had been "hints" and "off-the-record indications" to officials in Baghdad that the sanctions would be softened, beginning with a permission to Baghdad to import badly needed spare parts.

Permission for flights — possibly to and from Amman — was also discussed during meetings between U.N. and

Iraqi Foreign Ministry officials.

"I expect some loosening of the sanctions on the issue of spare parts and possibly an air route to Amman before the end of the summer," said a senior Foreign Ministry official on condition of anonymity.

Every six weeks Iraq eagerly awaits the Security Council meeting at the U.N. headquarters in New York to ease the sanctions. Thus far the answer has always been no.

One of the few recent requests Iraq made to the U.N. has been granted, however. Iraqi officials had told U.N. envoys to Baghdad that Iraqi agreement to extend the memorandum of understanding could be expedited if the U.N. Environmental Programme were to investigate the state of the more than 50 tonnes of depleted uranium anti-tank bullets that the allies left in southern Iraq after the war.

The U.S. Congress has called for special hearings to investigate the effects of the depleted uranium (DU) filled anti-tank weaponry and the tanks laced with DU, in efforts to explain new and unexplained diseases springing up among U.S. servicemen and women as well as their newborns, according to a BBC programme screened in Britain last week.

While there has been some talk of the effects of the DU bullets left in southern Iraq and their effect on the environment and general health of the population in southern Iraq, no U.N. agency has thus far investigated or volunteered to clean up the radioactive waste.

Iraq hopes that while the U.N. is busy dismantling the Iraqi war machinery it will also oblige in cleaning up the radioactive military waste, officials say.

So at the time that the Iraqis agreed to the renewal of the memorandum of understanding they were expecting that the U.N. guards were being phased out and that the easing of sanctions was imminent.

U.N. and NGO plans

The U.N. Geneva conference gathered all U.N. as well as NGO agencies dealing with Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan to discuss funding and strategy.

A planned budget of \$500 million to implement emergency and life supporting projects that have already won approval from the Iraqi government and donors was sliced down to \$220 million at the Geneva meeting.

By the end of the two-day gathering, donors had pledged \$50 million. A prioritised list was drawn up in which the maintenance of U.N. guards and so called "survival programmes," especially in the north, came out on top.

The maintenance of the guards cost \$50 million in the first year of their presence in the north. The U.N. has promised to make their stay more "economically viable" by pre-

senting a new budget of \$19 million for their on-going stay.

To the chagrin of many Baghdad-based NGOs and U.N. agencies there is a lobby within the inter-agency group that met in Geneva which is pushing for the use of an U.N.-Iraq escrow account to finance NGO and U.N. activities.

NGO and U.N. personnel based in Baghdad were horrified at the thought. "The Iraqis will be furious," said one U.N. official based in Baghdad.

But all was not lost. Iraqi officials have said that a "sub-account" of the escrow funds, which would make it independent of the reparations money claimed by countries and citizens who had major financial losses as a result of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, would be acceptable to them.

While both Baghdad and Geneva were side-tracking the implementation of important and essential rehabilitation programmes, the European Community did agree to fund water and sanitation projects currently being conducted by Oxfam in southern Iraq. The Overseas Development Agency did the same for Care — another NGO.

But Iraq's rehabilitation will not survive on \$50 million or even 10-times that amount, pointed out one NGO chief in Baghdad. "We need long-term commitment on both sides or Iraqis will continue to suffer terribly. A short-term solution is like no solution at all."

## Afghan rivals fight, injuring dozens

KABUL (R) — Afghan troops pounded a western suburb of the battered capital with rocket and heavy machinegun fire Saturday, injuring more than 64 people in some of the fiercest battles since a ceasefire three weeks ago.

"Most of the casualties are civilians hit by shrapnel or machinegun fire," said Dr. Abdul Aziz Alimi at the Karte Se Hospital near the heart of the fighting in the western suburbs.

The hospital has treated 14 people since the fighting erupted overnight, Dr. Alimi said.

Another hospital in the west said it had admitted more than 50 people by Saturday morning. No death toll was available since few bodies are brought to hospitals, but officials said five people were killed in rocket volleys Friday.

Government troops were bombarding the district from positions on hills overlooking the Karte Se Hospital, Dr. Alimi said.

The fighting between troops of the government and fighters of

the Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat party was among the fiercest since the nine main guerrilla groups in the coalition government agreed on May 20 to a new cabinet and a permanent ceasefire after three weeks of tortuous negotiations.

Middle-aged Shah Gul said he brought his 16-year-old twin son and daughter to Karte Se Hospital after they were injured when they returned on Saturday to visit the home they left in the last round of fighting in April and May.

"It was quiet so we came home to water our plants and look at the garden," Shah Gul wept. "Suddenly there was an enormous noise and dust everywhere."

Her daughter's jaw was held together by bloodstained bandages while her son had been injured in the head and wrist.

A retired military officer said he was hit in the abdomen by Kalashnikov fire as he took advantage of the recent lull in

fighting to return to his home in the west to collect flour.

"They are not aiming at military targets," he said as he lay waiting to be treated in an emergency room. "They are shooting at people just walking down the road."

Hezb-e-Wahdat fighters were preventing residents from fleeing the area.

"We have orders not to let anyone leave this area in order to stop the looting," said Wahdat commander Haji Mohammad patrolling the main road junction linking the western suburb with the centre of Kabul.

His men forced two frightened would be refugees pushing a cart loaded with household possessions to turn back.

An old man accompanied by two veiled women argued to be allowed to pass.

Government officials said on Thursday a peace delegation was in the area to try to negotiate an end to the clashes.

## Moroccan election campaign launched

RABAT (R) — Morocco began a two-week election campaign Saturday for its first parliamentary poll in more than eight years.

More than 1,500 candidates are running for two-thirds of the seats in the 333-seat chamber of representatives which will be elected by direct universal suffrage on June 25, officials said.

The remaining 111 seats will be indirectly elected by members of elected local councils, professional groups and trade unions.

Some 11,450,000 Moroccans are eligible to vote on June 25. The poll has been repeatedly postponed since the original six-year term of the outgoing chamber was extended to eight years.

King Hassan has promised the vote will be "fair, honest and transparent."

Opposition parties charged that the last election in 1984 was marred by irregularities and government interference to engineer an absolute majority for centrist parties.

Responding to opposition demands, the government this year introduced legislation designed to guarantee an honest poll by purging and updating electoral rolls and setting up multi-party commissions to monitor all stages of the vote.

The independent candidates include five members of the non-party government of Prime Minister Mohammed Karim Lamrani who was appointed last August to head an interim administration to organise the election, political sources said.

Three centre-right parties of the outgoing majority will campaign jointly. The two main opposition parties, the old-guard Nationalist Istiglal Party and the Socialist Union of People's Forces (USFP) are also running a joint campaign.

The National Assembly of Independents (RNI), a centrist party led by the king's brother-in-law Ahmad Osman, and the Communist Party of Progress and Socialism (PPS) have decided to go it alone.

The Arab Maghreb Unionist Party (PUMA) said in a statement on Friday the authorities had refused to register its members as non-party independent candidates in the legislative elections.

It said this attitude was illegal and unconstitutional and contradicted recent statements by the Interior Ministry that it had given instructions for registering non-party candidates.

PUMA applied in July 1988 for official authorisation to operate as a political party but said that so far it had not received any response.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## DFLP blasts Kuwait on Israeli boycott

DAMASCUS (R) — A Palestinian guerrilla group urged Arabs Saturday to punish Kuwait for easing a boycott of companies doing business with Israel. The Damascus-based wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said in a statement punitive action against Kuwait would deter other Arab states from following its lead. "Kuwait's decision to end the boycott of companies dealing with Israel is a violation of the principles of joint Arab action and a provocation for the Palestinian and other Arab people who are struggling to end Israel's occupation of their lands," the DFLP said. "We call for the adoption of Arab measures against the Kuwaiti government for its violation of the Arab decision and to deter any new violations by other Arab parties that would weaken Arab fighting to liberate their lands," the DFLP said. The group condemned the United States for "attempts to impose gradual normalisation of ties between Israel and some Arab states even before the achievement of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands."

## Hambley to be named U.S. ambassador to Lebanon

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton intends to nominate Mark Hambley, the U.S. consul general in Alexandria, Egypt, as ambassador to Lebanon, the White House said in a statement Friday. Mr. Hambley has been posted in Alexandria since 1986. He previously served at posts in Cairo, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Yemen, Jordan and Vietnam. He holds degrees from American and Columbia universities. He also studied at the American University in Beirut, the statement said. Mr. Hambley's nomination awaits confirmation by the Senate.

## Boucher named U.S. ambassador to Cyprus

NICOSIA (AFP) — Washington has named former State Department spokesman Richard Boucher as its ambassador to Cyprus in a sign of U.S. determination to help reunite the island, a government spokesman said Friday. The Cypriot government agreed Friday to the nomination which shows the "U.S. administration is giving special attention to Cyprus," spokesman Yiannakis Cassoulides said. Mr. Boucher, a career diplomat, was spokesman in 1992 and 1993 for three secretaries of state: James Baker, Lawrence Eagleburger and Warren Christopher. Ambassador Robert Lamb is due to leave Cyprus by the end of the year, the U.S. embassy said here.

## OAU leader denounces fundamentalism

COPENHAGEN (R) — Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Secretary-General Salim A. Salim Friday denounced the current wave of Islamic fundamentalist violence in Africa. "Africa has quite enough headaches already without the problem of Islamic fundamentalism," Mr. Salim, a former Tanzanian prime and foreign minister, told a news conference. "Africa must avoid the introduction of religious fanaticism into its multi-ethnic societies. It is best to let religion remain a question of one's own private faith," Mr. Salim was speaking after a day of talks with Danish Minister for Development Aid Helle Degn on closer OAU cooperation with the European Community. He said the most pressing problems in Africa were tribal conflicts in Somalia, Liberia, Rwanda and Sudan, adding that it was best for Africa if its organisation and Africans themselves dealt with the continent's woes. "Africa is going through a very exciting period at the present time. A new wind of change is sweeping the continent," he said.

## Israel to extradite American-Israeli

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel agreed Friday to extradite an American-Israeli wanted in the United States for the letter-bomb killing of a computer firm employee in a business dispute. Justice Minister David Libai signed the extradition order after receiving assurances that Robert Manning would not be given the death penalty if found guilty by an American court, a spokeswoman said. Mr. Manning, 39, and his wife Rochelle, 51, are wanted for the murder in 1980 of Patricia Wilkerson, employed by a computer firm in Manhattan Beach, California. Justice ministry spokeswoman Ety Eshed said the Israeli supreme court would convene early in July to discuss an extradition request for Rochelle Manning. The court was to debate a claim by Mrs. Manning's lawyer that she has already been tried for the offence, she said. An Israeli court jailed the Mannings in March 1991, seven months after the United States asked Israel to turn them over. Ms. Eshed said Mr. Manning would be extradited within the month.

## J.N. begins airlift to south Sudan

NAIROBI (R) — The United Nations has launched air drops of food to sites in famine-stricken southern Sudan made difficult to reach by the onset of the rainy season, the World Food Programme (WFP) said Saturday.

The WFP, the U.N.'s food arm, said in a statement that it dropped 14.4 tonnes of maize to the Upper Nile town of Nasir Friday and planned to drop a further 31.2 tonnes of food to other areas once clearance was received from Khartoum.

With assurances of security from both Khartoum, which demands clearance requests a month in advance, and the splintered factions of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the WFP said it hoped to reach six towns in a month.

It planned to airdrop food from a base at the Kenyan frontier town of Lokichoggio to the starving town of Ayod in the "famine triangle" on the Upper Nile and Bahar Al Ghazal area.

In Kampala, the WFP said it had extended relief aid to Sudanese refugees in northern Uganda for 18 months, providing for more than 20,000 new arrivals.

It said that it would provide food aid between July 1993 and December 1994 for 115,000 refugees — up from an estimated 92,000 who so far have fled to Uganda from Sudan's 10-year civil war.

There has been a steady flow of southern Sudanese refugees into neighbouring Uganda and Kenya in recent years.

But the WFP said food air drops were hampered by heavy rains.

"Airstrips are regularly waterlogged and muddy, making it impossible for aircraft to land," the WFP said.

"Without regular flights, food shortages would result in rapidly increasing malnutrition rates."

WFP's Jean-Luc Siblot said Ayod had been unreachable since May 30 due to poor weather.

The agency said it hoped food air drops would ease mass migrations and local people would stay in their villages and farm during

the current planting season.

Vierri Traxler, the U.N. secretary-general's envoy on humanitarian affairs in Sudan, said Wednesday that the risk of famine was rising and the next few weeks would test whether the Sudanese government and rebel factions were willing to stop it.

Mr. Traxler said he would press Sudan's rulers in Khartoum and rebels of the SPLA to give aid workers more access to areas where relief agencies say up to two million Sudanese are at risk.

"The situation is going worse. The number of people at risk is rising," he told Reuters in an interview.

Sudan's relief question will be raised for the first time at the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Cairo later this month, Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi said Wednesday.

The SPLA is fighting against what it perceives to be domination of the mainly black Christian and animist south by the Arabised Muslim Khartoum government.

Japan dispatched envoys bearing this message to China several months ago, to Thailand after a military crackdown last year left 40 people dead, to Peru after President Alberto Fujimori assumed extensive powers last year, and to Indonesia after troops attacked separatist demonstrators in East Timor in 1991.

Japan's policy is getting aid recipients to improve their behaviour can be called "sun and cold north wind" — a carrot-and-stick approach, the official said. Japan wants to encourage reforms and moderation in these countries in a cooperative way, but it will get tough if it has to, he said.

The warning was stronger to Iran than to other aid recipients because Iran is a "worse case."

Iran responded by strongly denying it was building weapons of mass destruction and by saying its military buildup is less than that of neighbouring nations, but said it "understands the meaning and intentions of the Japanese government," he said.

On Wednesday, after hearing U.S. charges that Iran is supporting terrorists and trying to build nuclear arms, foreign ministers of the European Community agreed to consider economic sanctions and keep a close watch on Iran's military buildup.

But the Japanese officials said Friday that more so than U.S. pressure, Japanese public opinion is a major driving force behind Japan's increasing insistence on conditions for aid.

"Since we became the number one donor in the last two or three years, the Japanese people have more interest, concerns and expectations for foreign aid," he said. "Taxpayers are watching... very carefully."

Japan provided aid worth \$10.952 billion in 1991, excluding aid to East Europe. The United States was second with \$9.407 billion. The Foreign Ministry said Friday that Japan spent \$11.33 billion in foreign aid last year.

Japan has warned other nations that continued aid depends on improving their images regarding human rights, the official said.

## Sanctions will not dissuade Iran — Nateq-Nouri

TEHRAN (AP) — Responding to U.S. calls for Western sanctions against Tehran, Iran's parliament speaker said Saturday that such moves would not dissuade it from Islamic revolutionary goals.

"It is not to the advantage of the United States and its allies to resort to such actions, because they do not have any effect on the movement of the revolution," Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri said at a news conference.

He added that Iran would "show the appropriate reaction to any move against it," but did not elaborate.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher Wednesday urged America's European allies to impose economic sanctions on Iran and deny it militarily useful technology.

"Iran must be persuaded to abandon its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programme," Mr. Christopher said in Luxembourg after meeting with the foreign ministers of the 12 European Community nations.

With Iran's economy troubled by falling oil prices, mounting debt and a soaring birth rate, Mr. Christopher said Tehran is "vulnerable to concerted pressure from the West."

Mr. Nateq-Nouri said "these kinds of initiatives have not dissuaded us from moving correctly on the political scene and from reconstructing our country."

He said: "The issue of economic sanctions against Iran is nothing new and has been used against us by the United States and its allies since the victory of the Islamic revolution."

Mr. Nateq-Nouri added that

Iran was a country with vast economic resources, and sanctions would have little effect on it.

Diplomats here agree that persuading European nations not to trade with Iran, which offers numerous multibillion-dollar projects, would be impossible.

Germany, for example, is Iran's largest trading partner.

The only concerted effort which could work, diplomats here say, could be to impose an embargo on Iranian oil, the lifeline of the country's ailing economy.

Mr. Nateq-Nouri said Iran would not resume relations with Washington until the United States stopped its "goals of hegemony."

He said Tehran had severed ties with Washington "on the basis of our revolutionary principles and values, and the desire of our nation."

Washington broke off relations with Tehran in 1979 after Iranian militants stormed the U.S. embassy and took 52 Americans hostage for 444 days.

Mr. Christopher's comments are seen in Tehran as the opening of a new chapter in the 14-year cold war between the two nations, at a time when President Hashemi Rafsanjani was emerging victorious from Friday's elections.

State-run Tehran Radio said President Bill Clinton's administration "has not taken a realistic policy towards Iran."

It said that "since coming to power, the Democratic administration has not abandoned from any initiative to weaken Iran, and now it is after a drive to isolate Iran internationally."

## Rafsanjani coasts to second term

(Continued from page 1)

The response of voters, largely disenchanted with the government's failure to deliver on promises to improve life after the 1980-88 war with Iraq, will not be known until the final turnout is announced.

Diplomats said it would have to match the 60 per cent or so of last year's general elections to be respectable. The turnout at the

1989 presidential election was 70 per cent.

Mr. Rafsanjani said in his campaign that a vote for him was a vote of confidence in his ambitious economic plans.

He has begun transforming the economy along free-market principles and plans to abandon state control of many largely inefficient industries and services, develop agriculture and reduce Iran's dependence on oil.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

## JORDAN TELEVISION

7:30-11:15

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Les Cles de Fort Boyard

18:00 News in French

19:15 Le Journal de L'Histoire

19:30 News in Hebrew

20:00 Step By Step

21:10 The Good Guys

22:00 News in English

22:25 Monsieur des Bois

## PRAYER TIMES

03:50 Fajr

05:25 Sunrise/Duha

12:35 Dhur

16:16 'Asr

19:46 Maghrib

21:21 'Isha

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh, Tel. 310740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632705

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624900

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Sante Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622346

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623441

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 712561

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151

Armenian International Church Tel. 628326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 828204, 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

It will be hot and winds will be northwesterly light to moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly fresh and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 19/35

Aqaba 24/37

Deserts 18/38

Jordan Valley 22/38

Yamouk 22/38

Yamouk 22/38

Yamouk 22/38

Yamouk 22/38

Yamouk 22/38

Yamouk 22/38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 34, Aqaba 36, Humidity readings: Amman 20 per cent, Aqaba 29 per cent.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Yahya Abdul Rahim 736072

Dr. Ahmad Khamis 747404

## AND JORDAN TOO



A booklet of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights

## Team readies itself for human rights meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — Continued Israeli practices against the Palestinian people and human rights violations committed by Israeli authorities will be presented to the World Conference on Human Rights due to open in Vienna Monday by the Jordanian Chapter of the Arab Human Rights Organisation.

In an announcement here Saturday Amin Shuqair, head of the Jordanian chapter, said the Jordanian team to the conference in Vienna will also raise the issue of the continued aggression on the Iraqi people and their deprivation of basic human rights and needs like food and medicine.

Addressing a press conference Mr. Shuqair expressed apprehension that the conference could witness the formation of blocs, some of which, he said, would be trying to cover up for human rights violations committed by major world powers.

Referring to Jordan's human rights performance, Mr. Shuqair said the Kingdom has been diligent in its efforts to promote human rights and extend assistance to those trying to establish and protect human rights in the Arab World.

Jordan last week announced that it was sending its own delegation to the conference. Sharif Fawaz Sharaf, Jordan's ambassador to the U.N. Geneva headquarters, will head the country's delegation comprised of prominent individuals from the private and the public sectors including parliamentarians, lawyers and human rights activists.

The Jordanian chapter's secretary, Hani Dahleh, who will head the chapter's team to the 10-day conference, said that the Jordanian participants will hold exhibitions, distribute leaflets and organise workshops and seminars with delegations from other Arab and foreign countries.

Mr. Dahleh said a special workshop will be organised in Vienna to advocate the Palestinian people's cause and expose Israel's human rights violations. He said the Arab World should take advantage of this conference to present their case to the world.

The record of various countries in adhering to the international charter and the covenants of human rights will also be reviewed at the Vienna meeting.

Both Mr. Shuqair and Mr. Dahleh are members of the Jordanian Preparatory Committee for the world conference. The committee has compiled a booklet in English outlining the development of institutions in Jordan and the democratisation process in the Kingdom. The booklet also covers human rights violations and makes recommendations on methods to be adopted for in safeguarding human rights.

## Ministry steps up forest protection

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture Afforestation Department Saturday issued an appeal to the public to help preserve the country's forests and trees, noting that of the country's 90 million dunums only about 750,000 are forested.

Azzam Muheisen, the department director, said Jordan loses around 30,000 trees annually because of fires, that is 80 per cent of the total losses. Other factors such as cutting down trees for firewood, clearing wooded areas, to make room for pasture lands and plant diseases which damage trees make up the other 20 per cent of losses.

Referring to the Wadi Shueib fire last week, Mr. Muheisen said the fire raged for 20 hours devouring trees planted on 200 dunums.

Last year's fires, he said, destroyed 4,987 trees on 48 dunums.

Noting that the department was taking every possible precautionary measure to prevent the destruction of trees, especially those in the forest, Mr. Muheisen said it is estimated that most fires are started by smokers who toss lit matches or cigarettes out of car windows while driving by forests or during outings in woodlands.

He said fires are also started by picnickers who light outdoor fires to cook food or to burn wastes and litter.

Mr. Muheisen noted that his department has now appointed guards to watch over the forest lands around the clock, including holidays and weekends.

Furthermore, the department has set up control and monitoring towers to watch against fires and has supplied them with special communications equipment and binoculars to survey the woodlands.

## Mix-up blamed for 250 truck hold-up at Lebanese border

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lebanese authorities Friday allowed 250 Jordanian refrigerated trucks and lorries hauling vegetables to enter Lebanon after a three-week hold-up at the border.

The delay, since May 23, caused a good deal of spoilage to the tomato shipment on the trucks, according to Salem Lawzi, director general of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO).

Dr. Lawzi told the Jordan Times that the hold-up was ordered by Lebanese authorities and obviously prompted by different interpretations by the two sides of a mutual understanding on shipments of agricultural products between Jordan and Lebanon.

Agreement to allow the trucks and the lorries to pass came only after the Jordanian government promised the Lebanese authorities that a serious study will be made for allowing Lebanese apricots to

enter the Jordanian markets, said Dr. Lawzi.

But, the Jordanian government has now allowed Lebanese cherries to enter the local market and has requested that Lebanon allow tomatoes and watermelons, of which the Kingdom has a huge surplus, to enter Lebanon, noted Dr. Lawzi.

He said Jordan is hopeful that the Lebanese would also allow in Jordanian green peppers, cauliflower, and eggplants.

The contacts with the Lebanese authorities were conducted by Dr. Lawzi and Agriculture Minister Marwan Kamal, both of whom are now supervising the preparation of a new plan for the exchange of agricultural products with Lebanon.

Noting that the Jordanian trucks were allowed into Lebanon in groups at separate intervals, Dr. Lawzi said that the affair caused substantial losses to the Jordanian farmers.

## Energy ministers see linkage project as boost to region's power production

AMMAN (J.T.) — The new world economic challenges require that countries of the same region join efforts to promote economic cooperation and boost energy production, said Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Waleed Asfour Saturday. Speaking at the opening session of a meeting of ministers of energy from Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Turkey which opened in Amman Saturday, the minister said Jordan and Egypt have already taken major steps towards linking their national power grids, as part of the five-country linkage plan.

Mr. Asfour pledged Jordan's readiness to cooperate with the other four countries in carrying out what he termed as a vital project.

The two-day meeting was called to review draft agreements on the linkage of the countries' power grids, at an expected cost of \$384 million.

Before the ministers are two agreements: one approving the exchange of electric power, and the other, a plan for setting up the power network linking the countries, according to a statement issued after the initial session.

The statement said the ministers will also endorse a plan for financing the project via the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) and the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB), both of which are represented at the meeting.

Iraqi Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources Amer Hamoudi expressed his country's enthusiasm for the scheme which, he said, would further enhance ties among the neighbouring states.

Maher Abaza, Egypt's minister of electricity and energy, voiced appreciation to the financiers, noting that the project gives new hope for better social and economic life for the people of the five participating countries.

Syrian Minister of Electricity Kamel Al Baba and the deputy Turkish minister of energy and



Ministers of electricity and energy meet Saturday in Amman to discuss regional power link up. The

ministers of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Turkey gathered today for the opening session of a 2-day meeting (Petra photo)

minerals delivered addresses in which they voiced their countries' backing of the project and noted that the projected network will cover 2.5 million square kilometres in area benefiting around 150 million inhabitants.

After signing the agreements, the concerned authorities will embark on the first phase of the project which will be completed in 1997.

This phase, the statement explained, entails linking Egypt with Jordan, Syria and Turkey and requires the extension of cables along 474 kilometres to carry 400 kilo-volts of power.

The first phase, estimated to

cost \$130 million, was earlier endorsed at a meeting held in Damascus last year.

The second phase, which is expected to be completed by the year 2002, entails laying cables between Syria, Iraq and Turkey along 658 kilometres, also carrying 400 kilo-volts of power. This phase is expected to cost \$254 million, said the statement.

Later, the ministers met with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali at the prime ministry and briefed him on the progress of their meetings. Dr. Majali expressed Jordan's eagerness to see the power linkage process through to completion.

## 5-day seminar to explore fertiliser industry

AMMAN (J.T.) — Participants in a five-day seminar on fertilisers starting here Sunday will review seven working papers prepared by Indian and Jordanian specialists dealing with the Indian fertiliser processing experiment and application and the prospects for developing the industry, according to Thabet Al Taher, director general of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) Saturday.

The seminar, which has been organised by the JPMC and the Arab Potash Company (APC), aims at benefiting from the Indian experience in producing and processing the mineral, said Mr. Taher.

India is the main importer of Jordanian phosphate and potash. Exports to India of nearly 1.3 million tonnes of phosphate and 350,000 tonnes of potash earn the

Kingdom around \$150 million annually, explained Mr. Taher.

Indian experts in the fertiliser industry have been invited to participate in this seminar because Indian markets import raw potash and phosphate and manufacture phosphoric acid and fertilisers of various types to meet

India's needs of the product, an essential component for agriculture, noted Mr. Taher.

Two Jordanian working papers to be submitted by the JPMC and the APC will deal with Jordan's experience as well as prospects for further production, Mr. Taher added.

In addition, said Mr. Taher, the seminar will be attended by delegates from five major international firms concerned with the fertiliser industry.

Jordanian universities and scientific centres, as well as officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, will also be represented.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### King meets with army chief

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday visited the Armed Forces General Headquarters where he was received by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lieutenant General Abdul Hafez Mirai Al Kaabneh, the directors of the General Intelligence, Civil Defence and Public Security departments, the chief of staff of the Land Forces, the assistants of the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, the inspector general and the chief of staff of the Royal Air Force. King Hussein met with Lt.-Gen. Kaabneh and discussed with him issues of concern to the Armed Forces. The King was accompanied on the visit by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki.

### King condoles Sheikh Hamid of the UAE

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable of condolences to Sheikh Hamid Ben Rashed Nueimi, member of the Higher Governing Council of Ajman in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — on the death of his son Sheikh Abdullah. The King also delegated Jordan's ambassador to the UAE Awad Abu Obeid to condole Sheikh Hamid on his behalf.

### Crown Prince meets with visiting Pakistani army head

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday received Commander of the Pakistani Army Lieutenant General Shodri Sardar Ali and an accompanying delegation. Prince Hassan and Lt.-Gen. Ali reviewed the situation in the region and discussed issues of interest to Jordan and Pakistan. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hafez Mirai A. Kaabneh, senior army officers, the Pakistani ambassador to Jordan and the Pakistani military attaché in Amman, Lt.-Gen. Ali was also received by Lt.-Gen. Kaabneh. Discussion at the meeting centred on this situation in the region, the role and development of the Jordanian Armed Forces, and Jordanian-Pakistani cooperation in military fields.

### Jordan to sign tourism pact with Syria

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers has authorised Tourism Minister Yanal Hikmat to sign a draft agreement on Syrian-Jordanian cooperation in tourism in Damascus later this month. The council also formed a Jordanian trade delegation to visit Turkey and Bulgaria to buy consumer products for the Military and Civil Service Consumer Corporations.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by artists Nawal Kattan and Dodi Tabbaa at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Marianne Naerobout at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition of Japanese paintings and photos at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "The Big Red One" at 6 p.m. at the American Centre (110 minutes)

Don't Miss  
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# KOREAN PRODUCTS SHOW

Featuring a Trade Show of  
The Latest Korean Products

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Organized By

UNIVERSITY EXPO. CENTRE  
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## EXCELLENT JOB OPPORTUNITY SALES REPRESENTATIVE FOR DENTAL PRODUCTS

A leading diversified company is seeking a sales representative with strong background in sales and marketing of medical dental products.

Minimum qualifications:

Qualified applicants are:

1. Jordanian holders of bachelors or higher degrees in business administration from accredited universities.
2. Self-motivated with good communication skills.
3. Track record of minimum 2-3 years of experience in sales/marketing of medical dental products.
4. Fluency in English and Arabic with strong written skills.
5. Computer skills are a must.

Qualified applicants should send detailed resumes in English or Arabic along with a recent photo quoting this ad to:

**DENTAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES JOB**  
Personnel Office  
P.O.Box 93  
Amman - Jordan

All applications will be handled with strict confidentiality.

## EXCELLENT JOB OPPORTUNITY BIOMEDICAL ENGINEER

A leading diversified company is seeking a biomedical engineer with strong background in sales and marketing of medical products.

Minimum qualifications:

Qualified applicants are:

1. Jordanian holders of masters or higher degrees in biomedical engineering with minors in business administration from accredited universities, preferably from the U.K. or the USA.
2. Self-motivated with good communication skills.
3. Track record of minimum 5 years of experience in sales/marketing of medical products.
4. Fluency in English and Arabic with strong written skills.
5. Computer skills are a must.

Qualified applicants should send detailed resumes in English or Arabic along with a recent photo quoting this ad to:

**BIOMEDICAL ENGINEER JOB**  
Personnel Office  
P.O.Box 93  
Amman - Jordan

All applications will be handled with strict confidentiality.

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Jordan Times advertising department.

### Trip with promise

WHEN HIS Majesty King Hussein and President Bill Clinton meet on June 18, each of the two leaders will use the opportunity to advance the interests of his country. While President Clinton struggles with domestic issues, he can look outwards for a minute and see where in foreign affairs he can achieve a victory for his administration. The Middle East can be a useful area. A deal between the Arabs and Israel seems to be attainable and the president could use his country's clout to help both parties reach an historic compromise. In the event such a scenario materialises in Mr. Clinton's thinking, it cannot escape his mind that King Hussein is a long-time advocate of peace and Jordan is key to lasting coexistence in the region. The King, who has been deeply involved in the politics of the Middle East for the past 40 years and as much committed to peace, is certainly in the forefront of all those who can advise Mr. Clinton on the best way to achieve a regional settlement while at the same time advance the interests of all parties to the decades-old conflict.

Notwithstanding the strain in relations between the two countries that reached its height during the Gulf crisis, Jordan continued throughout the cold war to be one of America's few friends in the region. For that alone, it incurred the hostility of many and paid a price on many an occasion. What the King would want to reemphasise in this respect is Jordan's principled friendship based on not only the Kingdom's commitment to peace but also on the values of freedom, human rights, democracy and mutual respect and cooperation.

But Jordan should expect from the U.S. to understand the scope of problems that we face as a result of our commitment to the twin policies of peace and democracy. Just as much understanding is in fact needed to get over our differences over the Gulf crisis and war.

If this country is to continue playing the key role that it has played so far in the peace process, our people can afford to be neither punished for the Kingdom's position on the Gulf crisis nor procrastinated by Israel's intransigence in the Washington negotiations. On the latter, Jordan can only take comfort from President Clinton's recent pledge to intervene personally in the peace process to push it forward. On the first count, however, there is much that the U.S. can do to help Jordan.

In stating this, we do not mean to say that this country needs to seek favours from any quarter. It does not. But if there is going to be a new world order, a regional order has to come first. And that is where a strong and stable Jordan can play its rightful role.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE COMING 10th round of Arab-Israeli peace talks, said Al-Dustour daily Saturday, are bound to place the Arab-Israeli conflict at a crossroads. These talks will be decisive and could lay the ground for the future things to come, it said. But the paper said that any expression of optimism as we have been hearing from the various parties should be based on convincing justifications. What the Arab side and the Arab masses should seek is concrete progress on the so far unfruitful nine rounds of meetings because it must be emphasised that the only alternative to progress is further tension and instability, leading to very serious consequences for the two sides, continued the daily. In light of the optimism expressed by the two sides, one can only expect from the 10th round to yield very good results and a real change in the Israeli stand, said the paper. Referring to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's statement, in which he said that the 10th round will witness a change in his government's position, the paper said that no one can predict the nature of such a change, but all hope for a real change, not in words but in deeds, if the peace process is to make a headway. The paper said one thing is certain that the Arab parties which are heading for the 10th round will do all in their power to safeguard Arab national interests.

A COLUMNIST in Al-Rai daily tackled the collapse of the Cooperative Bank accusing the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) of being the main cause of its demise. Fahed Al Fanek said that while it is true that the bank's failure to come up with sufficient liquidity is due partly to its failure to collect dues, most of the blame is to be placed squarely on the JCO and its bad management. This bad management has transformed the bank into a liability rather than an asset and caused an annual JD 2.5 million deficit, charged the writer. He said that the JCO withdrew from the Cooperative Bank in order to finance projects and pay the salaries of employees without the least hope of collecting any of the loans to the farmers and others. The writer also charged that Jordan does not have a cooperative system in the true sense of the word and all the members of the cooperative organisations hope to get low-interest loans which they, most often than not, fail to pay back. The writer demanded an independent judicial enquiry into the JCO management over the past 10 years so as to pinpoint those who should be held responsible for the problems.

### Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

## Few steps have been made, the road is still open

Mr. Ali Suheimat, deputy prime-minister, and minister of transport in the previous government, was the guest of honour and the key-note speaker at a dinner party organised by the Jordanian Businessmen Society the other week. The lecture was about privatisation; it was published two days later by the press, therefore, I do not need to summarise it or point out its salient points. The minister strongly supported the process of privatisation and pointed out the means to overcome the difficulties.

Although we want privatisation to proceed faster and create its own momentum, we find it useful to point out that privatisation in Jordan did not fail so far, and some successful examples do exist.

Privatisation is not of course confined to transferring ownership from the public sector to the private sector. That is only one aspect of privatisation. It also includes the liberalisation of the market and contracting out governmental services to the private sector.

The Ministry of Public Works, for instance, does not involve itself in directly building highways or public offices, it functions through private contractors. Governmental hospitals do not run their own kitchens to produce food, they get it through private catering. The Housing Corporation does not build houses, but offers the job to the private contractors. The Public Transport Corporation started to auction its routes to investors without having to give up the ownership. The spread of private universities is but another example to show that the private sector can explore and succeed in many activities that were thought to be a public sector monopoly.

The problem in Jordan is not the large size of the public sector. The public sector in America and Western Europe may be larger, but it would not get involved in the production of goods and services to the market. This job must be beyond the public sector domain.

The nationalisation of companies producing goods or services for the market took place in the past in order to save those companies from bankruptcy and not because public ownership was thought to be desirable. This applies to the Royal Jordanian (RJ) the Amman Bus Service Company, the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, the Arab Potash Company and the Agricultural

Marketing and Processing Company. Now that the reasons for nationalisation are no more there, things should be back to normal through denationalisation of those companies.

During the discussions following Mr. Suheimat's lecture, and after making the above comments, I ask the following questions which I would like to share with the readers along with the comments.

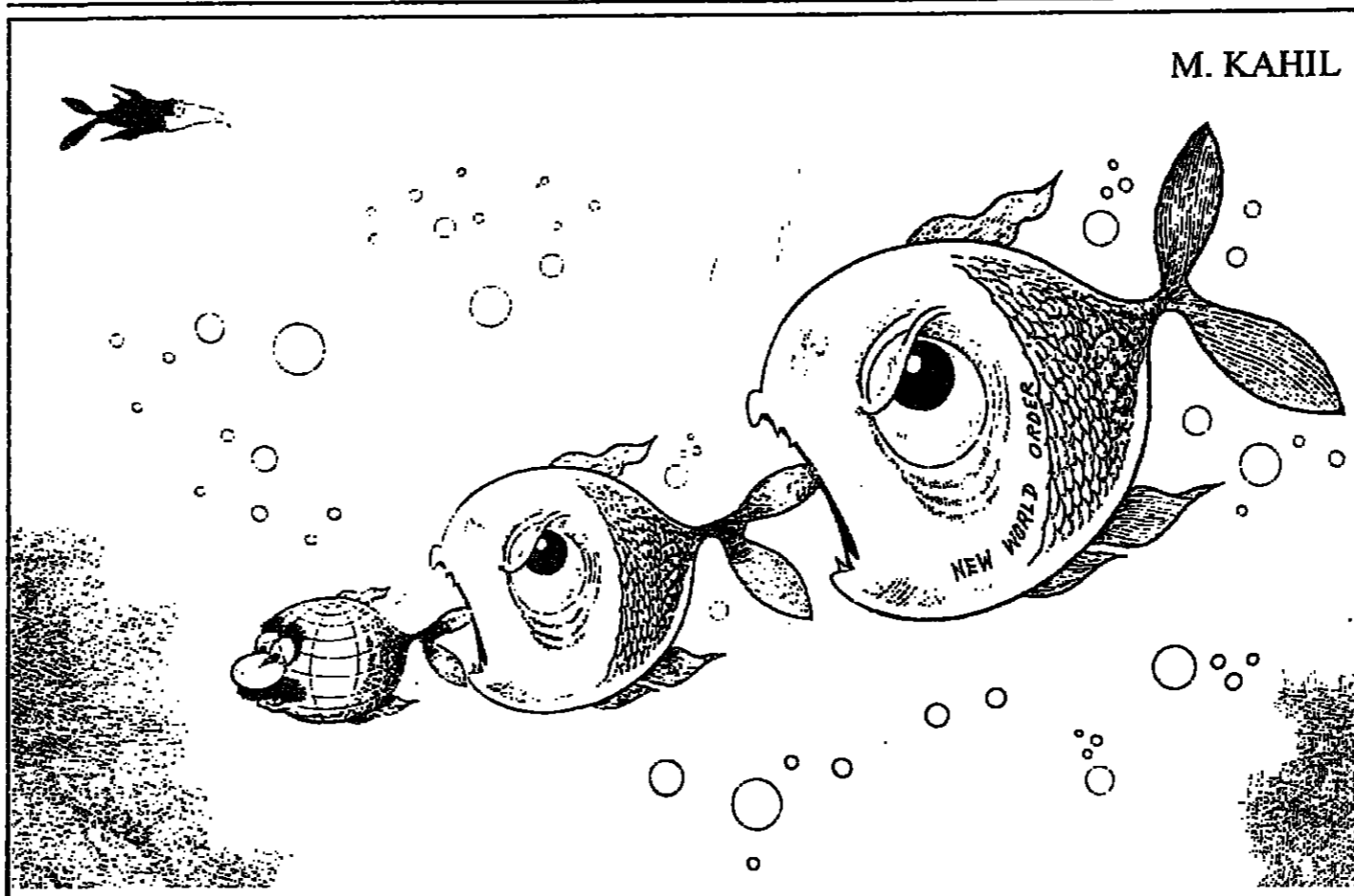
— Why did the government fail to set the proper priorities for its privatisation policy and tried to start with controversial targets, such as the Telecommunication Corporation, or difficult targets, such as the losing and debt ridden airline, instead of the obvious cases like newspapers, hotels, marketing and manufacturing? Priority and timing are extremely important. Starting with the ceiling before the foundation is not the right way to go about privatisation.

— Are the investments of the Social Security Corporation considered to be public sector investments, which should be privatised or be treated as private sector investments because they are actually funded and owned by hundreds of thousands of employees in the private sector subscribing to the social security?

— Why don't we start with commercialisation as a step towards privatisation? Governmental corporations and other departments involved in producing goods and services, such as the Water Authority, the Natural Resources Authority, and oil prospecting activities should have audited balance sheets and profit and loss accounts to disclose their financial affairs to the public, rationalise their operations and finances and make them accountable for their high costs and heavy losses.

— Why doesn't the government sell at least 5 per cent of its shares each year at a public auction through the Amman Stock exchange to avoid arbitrary pricing and guarantee the ability of the public sector to buy and prevent corruption that may take place upon transferring public ownership as favours?

— Finally, one would like to ask the high-ranking representative of the government: Why didn't his government carry out the specific suggestions and recommendations he listed in his interesting lecture in order to shift to private sector ownership and management and improve the investment atmosphere in Jordan?



'This is Kurdistan'

## Paradise for the keen young ferret

By Michael Ignatieff

TURKEY — Ferret has an eager and forgettable young face. He wears interrogator's shades and a 38 in his shoulder holster. He is 24 years old and he is with Turkish Special Forces.

I ask Ferret what the Special Forces do. He smiles and says it is against regulations to tell me. But today, he is taking me into the mountain villages where the Turkish army is fighting the "terrorists" — the guerrillas who have been fighting for Kurdish independence in southern Turkey since 1978. He talks American. "No way the terrorists are gonna win. No way."

While he is out assembling the escort — an armoured car and two Land-Rovers full of soldiers — I tell my Kurdish driver that there is a small rodent, with sharp incisors, which London's East End gangsters are reputed to stick down the trousers of their enemies. My Kurdish driver smiles wanly, says nothing.

Southern Turkey is a land of opportunity for young ferrets. The whole area is like Northern Ireland, a vast military camp: the helicopters drone overhead, F16s on strafing or reconnaissance runs scream over the tops of Kurdish villages: armoured personnel carriers and tanks squat astride every major road crossing; in Kurdish market towns, there is a plainclothes man with a walkie-talkie in every café.

There are bright shining careers in counter-insurgency to be made here, and there are no obstacles in a clever boy's path. Civil liberties are permanently suspended: you can arrest any Kurdish activist you want; none of your superiors cares how you get your information from the bloodied suspects in the cells. True, there are a few local journalists from a paper called Gundem, who report so-called human rights abuses, but who's to stop you using your gun on them too?

A dozen journalists have been shot already while reporting the dirty war. Another one will hardly be noticed.

Foreign journalists, on the other hand, require special handling. Mind you, they're all hypocrites. Especially the British. They should know that fighting terrorists is a dirty business, but they come here and tell the Turks to be nice to the Kurds. They've got the IRA wanting to tear a chunk out of Great Britain, but they come to Turkey and tell them to grant 'autonomy' to the Kurds. Stop the repression? Stop the arrests? It's enough to make any good ferret sick.

But modern security culture is all about good public relations. So the ferret bites his tongue. "You wanna good show? That's what we're gonna give you," he says. Turkey needs foreign friends, Istanbul wants to host the Olympics. Turkey wants acceptance as a European power. As everyone knows, Europe is a civilised and humane place. So it is good form in the counter-insurgency business to tell foreigners how civilised and humane you would like to be.

Even the ferret ventures a few remarks in this vein as we bump our way up the mountain tracks, past the army camps, barracks, airfields and surveillance posts, past Kurdish village women who mask their faces from the ferret's eyes. He allows as how he wished the government spent more on the roads and less on the security. He is surely correct: never have I been in a country which spent more on ferrets.

The convoy finally reaches the Kurdish village they think is safe for me to see. There are a hundred poor flat-roofed adobe houses, straggling up a hillside under the brow of a jagged cliff. On the cliffs, I spot the glint of Turkish binoculars. Down in the village, women are laying ropes

of sheep's dung on the rooftops to dry as fuel for their winter fires. Children, sheep and chickens are careening down the filthy winding tracks between the houses.

I've come to see the village guards, the Kurds who are armed and paid by the Turkish military, to provide protection for the village. It is alleged that the guards terrorise their fellow-villagers, commit atrocities and blame them on the terrorists. The ferret knows I've heard these stories and I've been shown a thick wad of atrocity glossy. There were so many pools of blood, so many glassy-eyed dead children beside their mothers, so many old men with small round puncture holes in their necks that I didn't bother to ask the obvious question: did the terrorists do this, or the ferrets?

As the village children gather round the strange foreign journalist, a Kurdish man in a smooth silk suit with a machine gun on his back hits about with his fist, knocking the children away. Little boys yelp like beaten dogs and run for cover. He comes up and shakes my hand; the local village guard commander.

It is never safe here he says, gesturing at the hilltop behind me. There is gunfire from that crest almost every night. Village guards are constantly ambushed on the roads. The schoolteacher has been scared away, so none of the children go to school. He lays about him again and strikes a child close by with the flat of his hand. Kurdish men in poor country people's suits crowd around with their heads down, saying nothing.

The ferret is close by, watching behind his interrogator's glasses. A Turkish army cameraman is filming every person I speak to. I manage to break away up one of the village paths with the village grocer, a red-faced old man wear-

### Bring U.N. into the process

## U.S. has taken the Middle East peace talks as far as it can alone

By Clovis Maksoud

THE UNITED States must take a fresh look at the status of the Middle East peace talks. For nine rounds the U.S. has painstakingly sought to ascertain and define points of divergence and possible elements of agreement. The contentious aspects in the talks remain. In defence to power, Arab parties will most probably resume talks this month. But they will do so with a growing conviction that the process is being routinised, thus constituting a license for Israel to persist in procrastination and provocations.

This is perhaps the time for the U.S. to signal that the U.N. should complete the task the U.S. undertook after the Madrid Conference in October 1991.

So-called realists among all parties have assumed that flaws in U.S. foreign policy on the Arab-Israeli conflict are built in and that by accepting U.S. sponsorship the Arab parties acquiesced to this constraint. The agenda and terms of reference often are set by U.S. administrations; the policy that ensues must be tailored to suit pro-Israel congressional biases; and although minor fluctuations in the degree of bias are at times discernable, any tilt towards evenhandedness is ultimately followed by apology or retraction.

Realists also argue that by dealing with the conflict solely within the context of U.S. sponsorship, it is possible to modify U.S. policy and its role in the process. The paradox: All parties expect to modify U.S. policy in their respective directions. Yet expectations far exceed Washington's capacity to deliver.

The late Anwar Sadat's premise that "99 per cent of the cards are in the U.S.'s hands" now dominates Arab realists' views. The immediate result is to put the Arab negotiating teams in a position where they must argue for their rights rather than ensure Israel's compliance with what the world community has recognised as Arabs' inalienable national rights. This form of Arab "realism" renders meekness a virtue, pleading a pattern, and endless patience a sign of moderation. It constitutes a prescription for an Arab rebellion against any peace option.

In these circumstances, Israel finds that it only has to repackage "proposals," "working papers," or "non-working papers" in order to buy time, consolidate Israel's control, and provide the U.S. with the necessary semantic alterations to persuade Arab parties to continue in a process that nobody — not even Arab and American realists — believe can bring a substantive, credible, durable outcome.

In order to pursue a comprehensive and just peace, the portfolio of the nine rounds must become the principal text and basis for the U.N. Security Council to examine, study, and evolve in order to comply with the various relevant resolutions.

The U.S. with its built-in constraints, cannot unilaterally (with due respect to Russia's cosponsorship) manage the peace process. But it can and should continue to play the pivotal role to salvage the peace it assiduously seeks.

The U.S. is no longer alone on Middle East issues in the United Nations. Since the Gulf war, its input in setting the agenda of the Security Council has been decisive. President Clinton has shown a readiness to delegate to the U.N. functions that were treated as exclusive U.S. or Western prerogatives.

Even Israel can no longer consider the U.N. as "unfriendly" territory. Hence the arguments that were put forward by the U.S. and Israel against U.N. intervention are no longer relevant, if they ever were. Who besides the U.N. Security Council can be expected to weigh in favour of an objective, fair, and precise interpretation of its own resolutions which form the basis of the nine rounds and the entire U.S.-sponsored peace process. Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 425, and 799 await a collective interpretation to allow speedy implementation.

To leave the U.N. Security Council out of this longstanding regional conflict undermines the prospects of peace in the Middle East while making it easier for future violators of international law, U.N. resolutions, and human rights, to defy the world community's will and commitments.

One fundamental issue blocks any consequential step towards resolving this conflict: Israel does not acknowledge, let alone recog-

nise, that it is an occupying power in territories it captured in June 1967. While the U.S. considers these territories occupied, it refrains from translating its judgment into policy. By entrusting the U.N. with the responsibility to address and resolve this conflict, the U.S. will, among other things, bring its policy closer to its judgments on the Middle East. Only then can the U.S. introduce the level of consistency and balance necessary to speed the resolution of this conflict.

Some in the U.S., especially pro-Israel groups, might consider this recourse a "failure," or at least a setback. Israel initially would put up a vigorous campaign against such a recourse to the U.N. It will contrive paranoid scenarios about "ganging up against Israel." Even those who might favour greater U.N. involvement will try to invoke the threat of a rightist Likud takeover.

"So-called realists among all parties have assumed that flaws in U.S. foreign policy on the Arab-Israeli conflict are built in and that by accepting U.S. sponsorship the Arab parties acquiesced to this constraint. The agenda and terms of reference often are set by U.S. administrations; the policy that ensues must be tailored to suit pro-Israel congressional biases; and although minor fluctuations in the degree of bias are at times discernable, any tilt towards evenhandedness is ultimately followed by apology or retraction."

Israel must be expected to oppose because its violations and behaviour will be subject to credible scrutiny, and its defiance of international law will be checked. Israel's ability to confront will diminish, making it easier to persuade or pressure it to comply with the U.N. resolutions. Being the exception to the rule of law will cease as the cost of its intransigence increases. While the U.S. will continue to underwrite Israel's secure existence, within the context of the U.N. it will be freed from domestic pressure to underwrite Israel's excesses.

Arab patience should not be taken for granted. True, some Arab parties are satisfied with the present pace. They consider that American unilateral and direct involvement in the peace process ensures a continued protection for them and their regimes. Even so, Arabs need the U.N. to protect the people under occupation. This must entail a U.N.-observer presence in the occupied territories, besides enabling UNIFIL in South Lebanon to carry out its mandate unimpeded and uninterrupted.

Some may see the proposal to shift the peace process to the U.N. Security Council as totally "unrealistic." More controversial, and dangerously so, is to continue relying exclusively on Washington's flawed policy. It is well motivated, but haphazardly executed, if not deliberately paralysed.

The U.S. will be doing the aggrieved parties a great favour by enabling the U.N. to render them its ward pending a comprehensive resolution of the region's agony in a manner that will heal the wounds, and recognise and secure the legitimate rights of those whose rights have been denied. Once again, the U.S. is called upon not only to be a superpower, but to be a great power.

Clovis Maksoud, a professor at the American University in Washington and director of the Centre for the Study of the Global South, is a former ambassador of the League of Arab States to the U.S. and the U.N. The article is reprinted from The Christian Science Monitor.

Site of proposed dam said to be centre of earthquakes

# Officials, scientists quarrel over viability of Karameh Dam

By Samson Ghosheh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A special committee formed by former Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shakir two months ago has yet to end the controversy surrounding the viability of a proposed dam in Al Karameh area, but opponents of the project are still calling for the termination of the plan, asserting that the proposed JD51 million undertaking is not suitable for the country's pressing needs for water reserves.

The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) counters these arguments with what it says are results of sound research that support the building of the dam, but many Jordanian scientists insist that the JVA studies have overlooked many geological and technical elements that render the project unfeasible.

Opponents of the project claim that neither the seismicity, the geological formation, the soil dynamics nor water quality of the area are suitable for the construction of the dam.

Kamal Jreisat, former director of the Natural Resources Authority (NRA), said: "The Karameh area represents epicentres of successive historic earthquakes. (It is) a very weak zone structurally speaking."

Abdul Aziz Wishah, director

general of the JVA, disagrees, saying it is not known for sure if this location had been the epicentre of quakes or not.

The proposed dam is located in the Jordan Valley, at 32 degrees north and 35.5 degrees east, an area where six earthquakes are said by experts to have taken place in the last 2,000 years. The main Jordan Valley fault and two branching faults lie at the dam site, Mr. Jreisat said.

Azem Humoud, dam design advisor and quality control engineer who teaches at the Jordan University of Science and Technology, said that many specialists, including the British company GIBB, which designed the proposed dam, expect the occurrence of an earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale by the year 2070 and another one measuring 6.3 in the next 15 years.

Dr. Wishah insists that the fears of earthquakes are exaggerated, adding that precautions for an earthquake measuring 7.5 on the Richter scale have been taken in the design.

He added, however, that if an earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale occurs then all of Jordan, not just the dam, would be destroyed.

Not true, said Dr. Humoud, who insists that the area of the proposed dam would be the most vulnerable to such an

earthquake. He argued that two sites suggested for the Unity and Wadi Arabeh dams would better resist the possible earthquake activities.

Dr. Humoud said the foundation and the right flank of the proposed Karameh Dam would be unstable because the geological formation of the area could not support such a heavy structure.

Though he acknowledges the unstable geological features of the area, Dr. Wishah argues the design of the project would take these problems into consideration and guard against their potential danger.

Dr. Humoud, however, insists that any design would be eventually weakened by the high percentage of gypsum and salts in the rocks, which dissolve upon contact with water, creating cavities in the rocks and the high permeability of the sand layers. Even if precautions were taken in the design and construction of the dam, the risk factor would still remain high, he said.

The possible existence of sink holes and subterranean caves under the proposed dam, area are other factors that both Dr. Humoud and Mr. Jreisat cite as compelling reasons for abandoning the controversial project.

While they admit they are not aware of any studies on whether there are sink holes in

the Karameh area, scientists know of their presence in the Wadi Malaha area, and believe that they may extend to the dam site.

According to Mr. Jreisat, drilling operations in the area had indicated the presence of some type of cavities. And if cavities do exist in the area, "the dam would collapse" in three days, said Dr. Humoud. Dahir Alen, assistant secretary general for dam and irrigation affairs at the JVA, denied the existence of such a problem, stressing that the designing company and the JVA had carried out studies that ruled out the existence of such a problem.

Scientists and JVA officials concur that the soil at the proposed dam site is composed of unconsolidated fine grain sand that is saturated with water. Once a heavy weight, such as the dam body, is placed on this soil and in case of an earthquake measuring 5.5 or more on the Richter scale, vertical displacement would take place, they say. Dr. Humoud estimates that the vertical displacement in this case would be nearly 10 metres.

He also insists that the constructional precautions taken by GIBB company would bring significant cost increase but would do little to eliminate the problem.

## Very high salinity?

Elias Salameh, professor of hydrogeology at the University of Jordan, said the salinity of rocks in the area was "very high" because the sediments were precipitated from the ancestors of the Dead Sea, from Lake Lisan. Thus, he maintained, the water collected in the proposed reservoir would be high in salinity.

Dr. Salameh said the existence of salty springs and artesian water throughout the area results in salt residues on the soil surface and its composition through the channels, thus, increasing the salinity of the water.

Dr. Wishah counters that designers have adopted some methods in the design of the dam that would ensure appropriate water quality. One method, he said, is diverting spring waters away from the dam into the Dead Sea. But thus, according to Dr. Salameh, will only divert "the water coming into the dam's reservoir at the highest storage level... irrigation return flows which are high in salinity cannot be controlled."

The other method, Dr. Wishah said, is mixing water in the dam's reservoir with water from the King Abdullah Canal. However, Dr. Salameh asserted, this is unsound environmental policy because it would increase the salinity of

the fresh water of the canal. Dr. Salameh stressed that "even if all measures were to be implemented to reduce the salinity of the water, the salinity would remain high." He added that these measures are extremely expensive and require qualified personnel, advanced operation strategies and schemes.

Despite Dr. Wishah's assurances that the dam's water could be used for irrigation, scientists affirm that the water quality would not be appropriate for irrigation for the first five years.

Dr. Salameh said it would take 10 years of filling and emptying the dam before its water quality becomes acceptable. In addition, he said, during this period the dam would be filled with silt, and rocks would weaken due to erosion and the dissolving of salts and gypsum.

Scientists also fear the presence of high concentrations of boron and sulphur in the area, which have a poisonous affect, and the existence of salt domes, which would further increase the salinity of the water and the cavities in the foundation.

Opponents of the project insist that the Karameh Dam is the last priority for water strategy in Jordan, especially that flooding water from the King Abdullah Canal can be stored in different areas: Dr.

Wishah, however, says that the proposed dam is the only suitable place for storing this water.

With all these problems, many Jordanian scientists are wondering why the JVA insists on going ahead with plans to build the dam, and why it depended on the studies of just one company.

The JVA offered few answers, but a few find them convincing.

Dr. Wishah explained that the Karameh Dam was important due to its location, which could allow for the highest storage capacity and could irrigate vast areas of land desperately in need of water.

The relatively low cost of the dam is another factor in favour of the dam, Mr. Alem said. One scientist claimed that the Karameh Dam was a replacement for the Unity Dam, which would be safer, more profitable, has a higher storage capacity and serves an area that has more needs for water.

He added that the Unity Dam is strategically better for Jordan because it controls the water going to Israel whilst Israel will control the water coming into Jordan if the Karameh Dam replaces it.

Dr. Wishah said the JVA still plans to construct the Unity Dam but refrained from further comment on the subject.

Constructing a series of smaller dams along side wadis

that pour into the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers and injecting water in aquifers are other proposed alternatives to the Karameh Dam.

As far depending primarily on GIBB studies, Mr. Alem and Dr. Wishah said that Jordanian scientists had been approached, but these scientist did not have the "ability to (solely) perform and participate in such a project."

Jordanian scientists refute this charge, saying that it was an excuse the JVA was using to dismiss their opinions and the opinions of others who are against the construction of the Karameh Dam.

Mr. Jreisat, who left the NRA in March of this year, said until his departure the NRA was not approached to study the Karameh Dam project.

He believes that a "task force" should be formed to carry out further studies on the geology, geophysics and hydrogeology of the area and to produce different maps to ensure that money and effort are not wasted.

"I would hesitate a thousand times before taking a decision to construct a dam in a very weak zone like the Karameh area," Mr. Jreisat said. "What is the harm in waiting four or five months to perform some studies on the area? Why do we need to start building the Dam immediately?"

## Recession may destroy German efforts to become greenest state

By Nao Nakanishi

Reuters

BONN — The worst recession in postwar Germany may destroy its efforts to become the world's "greenest" country by cutting its output of the global warming gas carbon dioxide.

A year ago, Germany pledged at the earth summit in Rio de Janeiro that it would slash its CO2 emissions by more than a quarter by the year 2005 — the most ambitious target set so far by any government on reducing output of the gas.

But as the recession bites into profits of high cost German industry, Bonn finds it impossible to introduce the CO2 tax it says it must have to achieve the goal.

"In Germany, we have already the highest tax rates. We cannot afford to impose new energy taxes unilaterally," a Finance Ministry official told Reuters.

"We must ensure our growth basis. Otherwise we cannot overcome the current recession or achieve an economic upswing in Eastern Germany."

Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt shocked businessmen last month when he proposed a new energy tax to finance West German coal miners when the current subsidy programme expires at the end of 1995.

German industry, already struggling with high energy bills, corporate taxes, labour costs and strict environmental regulations, fears the coal-financing tax could be used as the start for a broader tax on energy and CO2 output.

Yet officials at both the finance and economics ministries say they have no intention of reneging on Chancellor Helmut Kohl's promise to industry that Germany will not introduce such a tax on its own.

Germany, which accounts for

one third of the CO2 emissions within the European Community, is still pinning its hopes on EC negotiations for a common tax on energy and CO2 emissions aimed at stabilising CO2 output by the year 2000.

"We are still negotiating in Brussels very intensively so that we will certainly break the deadlock sometime in the future," said an official at the Economics Ministry. "It is not that there are two fronts. Things are moving."

But with Britain still refusing to accept the idea of such a tax, the EC is unlikely to reach an agreement in the near future, especially as taxes need support from all member states.

The commission estimates CO2 output in the community will rise by around 12 per cent by 2000. It calculates its energy and CO2 output tax alone will cut this to around eight per cent.

If EC member countries agree on the introduction of the tax, its eventual burden on German tax payers will total some 40 billion marks (\$25 billion) annually.

"We need the tax," said Thomas Startenwerth, Bonn's main negotiator on environmental policy in the EC.

"We have a whole set of measures to achieve our goal on CO2 emissions but no component can be lacking."

German industry says the tax will do little to curb its CO2 output, while giving a fatal blow to energy-intensive sectors.

The BDI says it will draft its own obligatory CO2 reducing scheme if the government exempts it from the tax on energy and CO2 emissions.

It says it will also invest in other countries, such as in Eastern Europe, where the same amount of investment would bring larger cuts in the output of the harmful gas than in Germany.

## Minority European languages fight for survival

By Patrick Lannin

Reuters

BRUSSELS — From the Arvanites and Aromounes in Greece, via Italy's Ladins and Friulans to the Sorbs in Germany, linguistic minorities all over Europe are fighting for their survival.

Only nine languages are recognised as official languages of the European Community but the continent's linguistic map is much more colourful, with around 35 languages spoken by various sizes of groups scattered throughout the continent.

The European Commission, far from wishing to snuff them out as the EC moves towards a single Europe, has been promoting measures to help them survive.

In 1982 it formed its bureau for lesser used languages in the Irish capital Dublin. Late last year it set up an office in Europe's capital city, Brussels, as an information and coordination centre.

"When these communities feel it is important to survive and transmit their culture, not only in a traditional way but to adapt to a modern way of life, we feel they are entitled to do it and we should make the means available," Auke van der Goot, manager of the bureau's Brussels Office, told Reuters.

The aim of the bureau is to help minority languages survive the onslaught of a unified Europe, English-dominated mass media and the sometimes neglectful stance of national governments.

"I believe a lot of those small linguistic communities which have felt threatened over the past decade feel that such a bureau can help them survive and find examples of how language policy can be developed," Mr. van der Goot said.

Pockets of minorities, some of them tiny, exist throughout Europe. Some of the smallest are in southern Italy, where a population of around 3,000 Croatian speakers and 5,000 Greeks live.

In the north of Italy, on the border with Austria, are areas of Ladin and Friulan, spoken by an estimated 30,000 and 500,000 people respectively.

Several patches of Slav peoples are scattered in northeast Greece, such as the Pomaks. The Aromounes, who speak a language close to Romanian, live in the most mountainous regions of Greece and the Arvanites, whose language belongs to the Indo-Germanic family, in central and southern Greece.

Against these precarious and scattered language minorities are the larger and more established lesser used languages — Welsh

and Scots Gaelic in Britain, spoken by around 500,000 and 79,000 respectively and Catalan in Spain, where the language is widely used by Catalonia's six million population.

The aim of the bureau is to increase the expertise of regional authorities, the media and activists in developing programmes to help the minority languages survive.

Mr. van der Goot gave the example of Friesland in the northern Netherlands, where the local government started a pro-

gramme in which elderly native-language speakers "adopted" non-Frisian speakers and helped them learn the language during lessons several times a week.

The bureau also organises study trips, when people from minorities visit other minority regions. The workers in the bureau are themselves from lesser used language areas.

"Even a well established minority as in Ireland needs support, needs advice and needs stimulus from other regions,"

Mr. van der Goot, a Frisian, added.

The Irish television company RTE turned to the bureau for help when it wanted to start up an Irish-language channel.

The bureau has four main centres — one in Friesland collating information on education issues, an office in Barcelona collecting data on legislation relating to lesser used languages, a general studies centre near Paris and a media bureau in the Welsh town of Aberystwyth.

The Brussels office tries to coordinate these activities and is working on a database where this information is collected.

Mr. van der Goot is a passionate defender of the rights of members of small language groups to exist and receive help.

"We are very aware that we cannot say we need free television stations for a language that is only spoken by around 5,000 people," he said. "What we want is to be part of modern society and to get the money that is necessary to survive."

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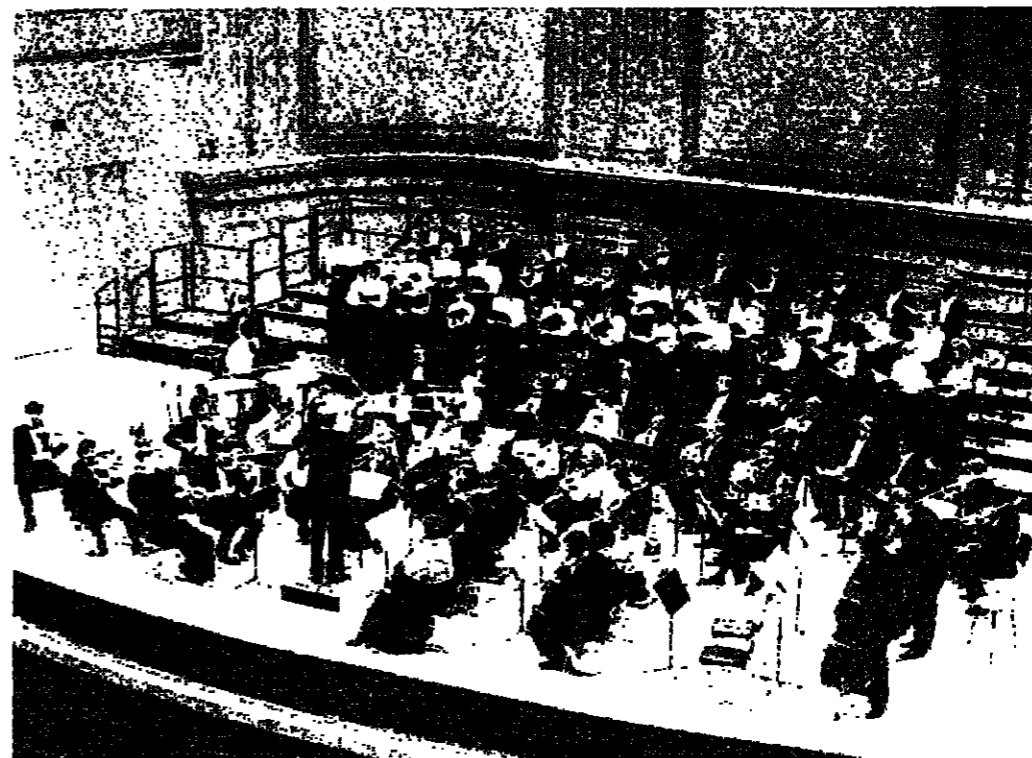
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## Boeing sees up to \$100b Superjumbo market

PARIS (R) — Boeing Co., Friday predicted \$50 billion to \$100 billion market for a 600-seat "Superjumbo" jet, saying the plane would cost at least as much as the \$145 million to \$160 million price tag on its current 747.

"It is inconceivable to build an airplane 40 to 50 per cent larger than a 747 in the number of seats and expect the price to be any less," Boeing Vice President John Hayhurst told Reuters in an interview during the Paris Air Show.

Mr. Hayhurst, the Boeing executive in charge of a feasibility study on the plane, said the overall market for such an aircraft would be worth a minimum of \$50 billion but could range as high as \$100 billion.

The Wall Street Journal reported Friday that Boeing was considering pricing the 600-seat plane at a minimum of \$100 to \$125 million, below the 400-seat current 747 model's cost.

Boeing and the four firms that make up the Airbus Industrie consortium — but not Airbus itself — in January agreed to study the feasibility of together developing an all-new aircraft to seat anywhere from 550 to 800 people.

The group, which includes Aerospatiale of France, British

Aerospace PLC., Deutsche Aerospace of Germany and Construcciones Aeronauticas of Spain, has said it believes there is a market for 400 to 500 of the 600-seat planes by the year 2010.

Despite the relatively high dollar value of such a market, Boeing officials say they believe it is only big enough for one aircraft, hence their cooperation with the Airbus partners.

"Our suspicion is that it is a relatively small market and a very expensive one, beyond the ability of any one company to handle," Boeing President Phil Condit told a news conference.

"So... what is called a natural monopoly develops," he added. "In other words it is a small market that needs the cooperation of multiple players."

Mr. Condit said that if a Boeing-Europe group decides to build the plane, anti-trust and competition authorities on both sides of the Atlantic would have to decide if the market was small enough to justify the firms working together.

"Obviously if there is a great big market, the answer is much different," Mr. Condit said.

For competition authorities, the potential difficulty is that the firms would be able to charge

monopoly prices for the aircraft.

Mr. Hayhurst said the Boeing-Europe group is far from the day when they will decide whether to build the plane and how much it will cost, saying the pricing is at least several years off.

Boeing officials say that the group will decide in January simply whether to proceed with their study, but stressed that that is far from a choice to manufacture the aircraft.

"This plane is a long way away," Mr. Hayhurst said. "We're not worried about setting the price yet. In the end the market will determine the price."

## Mideast countries get less development aid from Japan

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's official development aid (ODA) in 1992 amounted to \$11.33 billion, up 2.7 per cent from a year earlier, according to a government report released Friday.

In yen terms, however, the amount fell 3.3 per cent from a year earlier to 1.43 trillion yen, largely due to the Japanese currency's appreciation against the dollar, the report compiled by the foreign ministry said.

Japan is likely to rank the world's biggest or second biggest ODA donor in dollar terms in 1992, a ministry official said, adding the United States had not reported its official figure yet.

For the five-year period to 1992, Japan's total ODA value reached \$49.7 billion, just below the government's target of \$50 billion, it said.

The report said disbursements to Asian nations had sharply increased to 65.1 per cent of the total, up from 51 per cent the previous year, while Middle East nations' share fell from 20.4 per cent to 4.3 per cent.

The decrease in ODA to Middle East nations was chiefly due to an increase in loans to the region in the previous year in the wake of the Gulf war, the report said.

Excluding aid to Eastern Europe, the ratio of Japan's ODA to its gross national product — the nation's total output of goods and services — came to 0.3 per cent in 1992, down from 0.32 per cent in 1991.

## China gets serious in fight against overheating economy

PEKING (Agencies) — The Chinese government has moved to rein in breakneck economic growth, ordering all unauthorized construction projects to be postponed or halted and laying down new credit restrictions.

A circular, issued by the State Council (cabinet) and published here Saturday, said that a nationwide shortage of capital had become a "prominent problem" in economic growth.

It called on local governments to examine all construction projects to determine their viability. Projects violating state industrial policy would be halted or postponed, as would those without reliable financial sources, ready conditions for construction or market potential.

Similarly, the circular demanded banks limit or stop lending to businesses that have raised funds in violation of state regulations or that have diverted loans for real estate speculation and share purchases.

Credit from all government organizations, banks and state investment firms would instead be concentrated on infrastructural projects in sectors such as communications, transportation, energy, raw materials, agriculture and water conservancy.

All local governments were required to report to the State Council before the end of next month on the implementation of the circular.

The central government is currently drawing up a plan to further restrict credit while at the same time freeing prices, Chinese economists say. The plan is expected to be discussed in August by the top leadership and the circular was seen as a first step toward its realization.

But the circular sounded more like a plea than an order, reflecting the growing weakness of the central government as China's shift to a market economy forces Peking to grant more powers to the provinces.

The government has failed to slow growth despite repeated attempts since late last year. China's economy grew by 14.1 per cent in the first quarter, pushing urban inflation up to 15.7 per cent. Consumers are once again grumbling about price hikes and many are rushing to convert their savings into durables.

Last month, however, the government raised bank lending and saving rates in an effort to control inflation, which is now running at its highest rate since 1988.

The circular paid particular attention to the agricultural sector. Farmers are upset with unreasonable taxes and the state's failure to pay for grain with cash, and on several occasions this year have protested.

Local officials would be held responsible if agricultural loans and funds were misused or withheld, it said.

Priority was also to be given to key state-run companies.

China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, who triggered a boom that has led to the world's fastest economic growth rate, has warned against letting the economy spin out of control, a Peking newspaper said Friday.

The Communist Party's top policy-making body will meet shortly to tackle the problems caused by the economy charging ahead at rates that surpassed 14 per cent in the first quarter this year, the Hong Kong-based Wen

Wei Po said.

The chief problem is inflation, which even by official figures is more than 17 per cent in key cities.

The Central Committee, made up of 189 people at the top of China's power pyramid, will meet either at the end of June or the beginning of July to focus on economic issues, the newspaper said.

The newspaper is often used by China to release sensitive information.

A Communist Party spokesman would not confirm or deny the report.

The newspaper quoted Mr. Deng, who will be 89 this summer, as repeatedly warning that "emphasizing speed does not mean encouraging unreasonable speed. We still must be down-to-earth and demand efficient, coordinated and stable development. Huge ups and downs are not beneficial to maintaining the steady development of the economy."

Previous warnings by economists and officials that China had to take action to stop the economy from overheating have been muted because no one dared to go against Mr. Deng's order for fast growth.

If he has now agreed to the need to slow the economy down slightly, the government may be able to take more effective action against the runaway pace of investment that is helping send inflation to its highest levels since 1986-1989.

While Chinese leaders are determined to maintain fast growth, they want to avoid spiralling inflation at all costs.

The last time China's economy

## Attali proposes regional structure for troubled EBRD

LONDON (R) — Jacques Attali, head of the troubled bank set up to help Europe's transition to market economies and democracy, has floated a proposal that the bank be reorganized along regional lines to improve efficiency.

Sources at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) said Friday that Mr. Attali had proposed a division into three regions — North Central Europe, South Central Europe and the former Soviet Union.

The shareholders are also discussing a shake-up at the top of the bank which is likely to result in Ron Freeman, currently vice president in charge of merchant banking, leaving the institution.

But sources stressed that Mr. Attali had not proposed this to the board and the initiative for changes in personnel was coming from shareholder countries.

"It's normal, that after around two years, the bank should be looking closely at how it is organized," William Curran, the United States representative on the bank's board, told Reuters.

Sources said the bank's shareholders were looking at the possibility of keeping Mr. Attali as a figurehead and appointing Ernest Stern, currently one of the managing directors of the World Bank, currently one of the managing directors of the World Bank, to oversee the operations in both that current merchant banking and development banking fields.

This would leave Mario Sarcinelli, currently head of development banking and apparently disappointed that he has not figured in the recent government changes

## World Bank says redistribution vital to S. Africa future

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa, mired in its longest recession on record, could enjoy rapid growth in the early years of a post-apartheid government but benefits must be shared fairly to sustain this, the World Bank said.

The bank, in a report by its southern Africa department, said most of the country's economic, as well as political, problems were rooted in apartheid.

No economic programme, however well designed, could succeed without increased social stability, said the report.

"If gains from growth are not perceived as being distributed equitably by the community at large, social unrest will reemerge, and political and economic stability will be undermined," it said.

The bank said the report was distilled from informal discussion papers prepared by its staff and a wide range of South Africans, and was not an official bank document.

The report said South Africa's income per capita of \$2,500 a year puts it among upper, middle-income developing countries.

But, that for whites was almost 10 times higher than for blacks, and 4.5 times higher than for mixed race citizens.

And wide disparities ranged from access to services including water, sanitation, electricity, education and health, to social welfare in areas such as infant mortality and life expectancy at birth.

The extremes, it said, "tend to confirm that there are really two South Africa's — a first world society for whites and a Third World society for blacks."

Key problems which had to be addressed ranged from high unemployment — one-quarter of the black labour force was without work — to declines in investment and productivity, while its trade regime was biased towards production for the home market rather than internationally competitive exports.

## Bank of Italy cuts key interest rates

MILAN (R) — Italy announced cuts in its key lending rates of half a percentage point Friday, taking advantage of a stronger lira to help ease the pain of recession and the burden of its huge public debt.

The timing of the reduction, which drops the discount rate to 10 per cent and the fixed advances or Lombard rate to 11 per cent from Monday, took many market-watchers by surprise.

"All the ingredients for a rate

cut were there but I don't think many people expected it today," said Mario Noera, economist at Euromobiliare.

On the futures exchange, the Italian September bond future surged 44 basis points to a new high of 100.68 but the lira only weakened slightly to 913.50 against the mark from 912 just before the news.

A half-point cut in official rates is estimated to save the treasury around eight trillion lire (\$5.47 billion) in interest payments on its public debt and will help industry emerge from the worst recession in more than 20 years.

It should also allow the treasury to reduce its budget deficit targets, which stand at 155 trillion lire (\$106 billion) this year and only slightly less for 1994.

Many financial experts said there was scope for Italian interest rates to fall further in the next few months even if the Bundesbank keeps German rates unchanged.

Approval of the 1994 budget

## Manila puts foreign debt at \$30.9b at end of 1992

MANILA (AFP) — The Philippine foreign debt rose to \$30.9 billion in 1992, up by 3.3 per cent from a year earlier, the Central Bank of the Philippines said in a statement.

Eighty-three per cent of the total is medium- and long-term liabilities, down slightly from 83.9 per cent in 1991, while 17 per cent is short-term obligations, up from 16.1 per cent, the central bank said.

External debt as a proportion of gross national product (GNP) fell to an estimated 5.8 per cent from 6.5 per cent in 1991.

The debt service burden as a percentage of total exports fell to 18 per cent in 1992, from 20.7 per cent a year earlier.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JUNE 13, 1993  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** A flimsy idea, that for the good of all concerned, is best forgotten. Be sure to keep all your appointments today, even though you may want to change your plans after lunch with relatives.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Use charm during the daytime to make your environment more attractive while in the evening some difficult situation could occur in the outside world.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Think about and then enjoy the pleasures you like most until the sun goes down when you find newcomers and interests to be disappointing.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You have a good chance to have a greater accord at your residence so do what charms your family and tonight do nothing to upset your mate.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) A communication or writing brings much delight during the daytime hours but tonight make sure you avoid a cold and calculating associate.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Think about what you can do to make your possessions more attractive during the day but tonight find any work matter has difficult results.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Use as much time as possible making your attractiveness more evident and building up your vital energy and tonight avoid expensive amusements.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Avoid any tension at home tonight, after a day devoted to whatever private aims and ambitions you wish, to put into motion with others.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Look into the various ways that good friends can help you to get the personal pleasure you wish the most and tonight avoid a con artist.

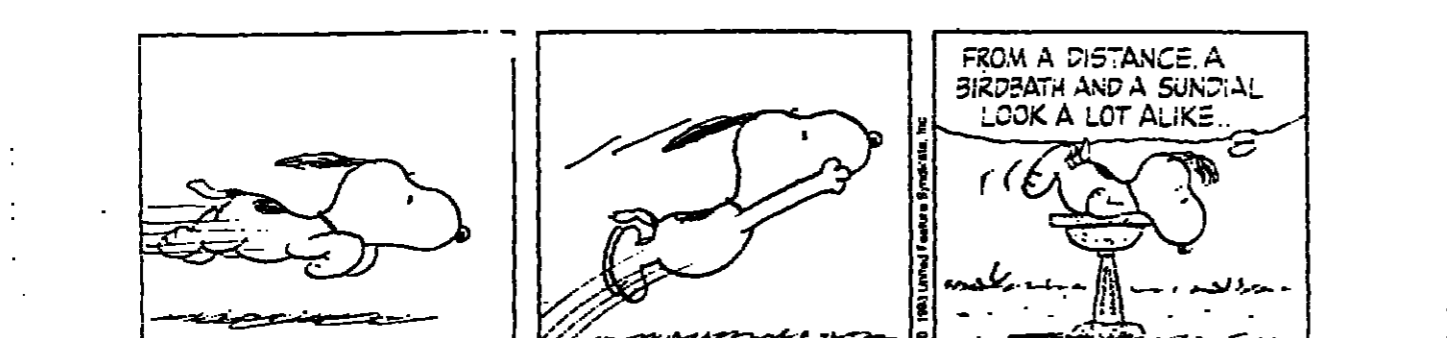
**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) A good day to spend in the outside world letting contacts there be more aware that you like them while tonight brings a need for more economy.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) This is the day for you to go off on some jaunt or acquire intimate reason of importance to you while tonight is not good for forcing personal ideas.

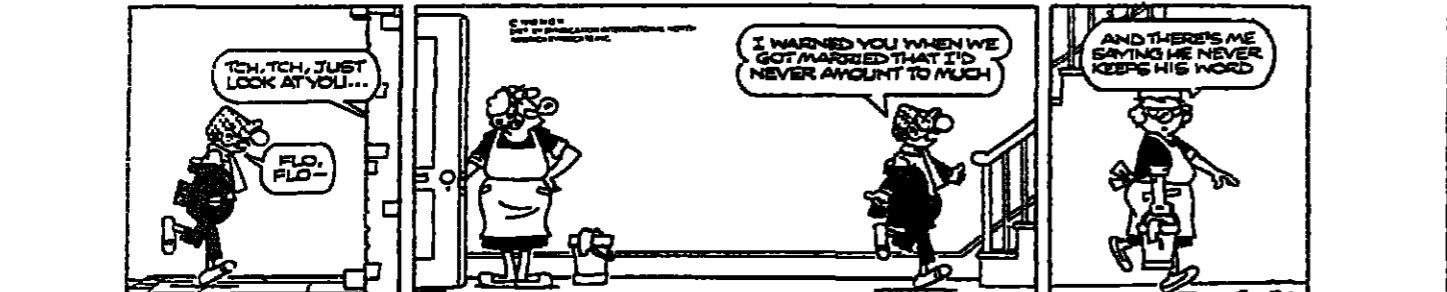
**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You can have a pleasant day by paying special attention to the one closest to you so be happy while tonight brings a secret problem you must solve.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Gain the good will of outside contacts now by showing your willingness to coordinate efforts with them, later a determined friend can make tonight difficult.

### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



### THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

### JUMBLE

by Matt Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WABLY  
UPSIO  
RIGLYM  
CHORCS

Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: PLUSH FRAME OFFSET PLAINT  
Answer: These are stuck outside and also could be stuck unstuck inside — STAMPS

### THE Daily Crossword

by Don Johnson

ACROSS  
1 "All — Jazz"  
3 Rub roughly  
10 Keaton on TV  
14 Extended walk  
15 Yarnish ingredients  
16 Secondhand  
17 Rainbow  
18 Ready for war  
19 Work long and diligently  
20 Small faction  
21 Social  
22 Look ready  
23 Flying toy  
25 Drive-in employees  
28 Black eye  
31 Edible tuber  
34 Across Jessica  
35 Marmoset in support  
36 — de plume  
37 Paintings  
38 Thrashed  
39 — la la  
40 Unmost degree  
41 Felt to excess  
42 Residue  
44 Golly  
45 Flagellate  
46 Magic measures  
47 Reese of the diamond  
49 Lined up  
50 Involve by trickery  
52 Obese  
54 Mine output  
57 Turner of song  
58 To pieces  
60 Less  
61 Aardvark's delight  
62 Port Saint — Fla.  
63 Italian city  
64 Vile  
65 Lord — (listen)  
66 Fret

DOWN  
1 "All — Jazz"  
2 Take on  
3 Rebuke  
4 Examining  
5 Pit  
6 Present  
7 Rebuke  
8 For shame!  
9 Terminate  
10 Tang  
11 Rebuke  
12 "To — not..."  
13 Ram  
14 Lean-to  
15 — off the hardy  
16 Feeds the kitty  
17 Robert or Rex  
18 Street language  
19 Author Bret  
20 Kitchen gadget  
23 Gather up  
24 Vile  
25 Make happen  
28 Curved nail  
31 Happiness  
42 Make public  
43 Underlings  
46 The second of two  
48 Wipe out  
50 Pierce  
51 Columbus' ship  
53 Melody  
55 Art deco name  
56 Lots  
58 made  
59 Paronomasia



# Attack on Sarajevo funeral kills 8

## N. Korea steps back on nuclear treaty withdrawal

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Eight people were killed and five injured in Sarajevo Saturday in an artillery attack on a Muslim funeral, U.N. officials said.

It was the worst attack of its kind in Sarajevo since 15 people were killed and more than 100 injured when shells slammed into a soccer game near Sarajevo airport two weeks ago.

Reuter journalists saw the bodies being removed from an ancient Turkish cemetery in Sarajevo's old town district, and at the main city morgue.

United Nations officials said the round had been fired from the direction of Serb positions, apparently from a recoilless rifle. A U.N. spokesman confirmed that eight people had died and five had been wounded.

Earlier reports had said a mortar bomb hit mourners. Sarajevo resident Ahmed Karisic, 33, said the attack came as he was burying his mother, Fadila, who had been killed in a mortar attack in the city two days ago. His father and brother were wounded in that same incident.

"We couldn't hear anything except the explosion. There was a terrible commotion and lots of smoke," Mr. Karisic said.

People living near the Budakovic cemetery said Saturday's shot was fired from Mount Trebevic, where Serb positions overlook the besieged Bosnian capital.

In the Muslim cemetery, with its distinctive gravestones carved

in the shape of turbans, large pools of blood stained the soil by the graveside. Broken tree branches, flowers, shoes, hats and pieces of flesh were also strewn around the area where the explosive struck.

In southern Bosnia, Spanish U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) soldier was killed by Bosnian Croat forces, bringing to 46 the number of U.N. troops slain in the former Yugoslavia, UNPROFOR spokesman Barry Frewer said here Saturday.

The Spanish soldier was a first lieutenant leading a patrol of armoured personnel carriers across Tito bridge in Mostar Friday evening.

They were moving from Muslim-held to Croatian-held positions on a mission to deliver humanitarian supplies when the patrol "came under intense fire" of small arms and light machine guns from Bosnian Croat HVO positions," Mr. Frewer said.

UNPROFOR British forces had killed two Croatian militia near Vitez in central Bosnia earlier Friday while defending a humanitarian convoy. It was not clear if there was a link between the two incidents.

The convoy that has come under repeated attack by Bosnian Croat forces struggled to make its way across central Bosnia Saturday, with about 20 of its vehicles missing.

Meanwhile Sarajevo radio re-

ported more Serb attacks on the Muslim enclave of Gorazde in eastern Bosnia.

A British U.N. spokesman in Vitez said European Community monitors said British troops were looking for vehicles that were part of the 500-vehicle convoy and that had apparently been taken away by Bosnian Croat forces.

The caravan is bound for the Serb-besieged Muslim city of Tuzla in the northeast.

The spokesman said the number of missing vehicles was about 20 and that they might have been taken to a quarry in Vitez.

He had reported Friday that a group of Croat militiamen continued to stop vehicles, forced about 30 people off and taken them to the central town of Vitez.

The head of the EC monitoring mission in Bosnia, Jean-Pierre Thebaud, was talking to local commanders about this, the spokesman said.

In another development, Bosnian Serb forces on Saturday freed some 800 Bosnian Croat soldiers in exchange for Serb troops, the Tanjug news agency said, citing military officials.

The prisoner exchange was agreed after talks Friday between officials from the self-declared Serb republic in Bosnia, and the Croatian equivalent, called Hercegovina, according to Tanjug.

Several hundred Croatian sol-

diers and civilians were picked up by Serb forces after they fled the central Bosnian city of Travnik, which fell into Muslim hands during the week.

As well as organising the prisoner exchange, the two sides also agreed that civilians should be allowed freedom of movement in Serb and Croat-controlled territory, Tanjug said.

The Serb side was led by Bosnian Serb Premier Vladimir Lukic and Bosnian Serb military number two General Milan Gvero, while the Croats were represented by Hercegovina's President Milanovic Petkovic, head of Bosnian Croat forces.

In Paris, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, on a "last chance" tour of Europe, pleaded with French leaders Saturday for weapons to allow his embattled Muslim people to defend themselves.

Mr. Izetbegovic received with military honours a republican guard at the Elysee Palace, said he asked President Francois Mitterrand to partially lift the arms embargo on war-torn parties in former Yugoslavia to allow Muslims to buy defensive weapons.

He said that while he was lunching with Mr. Mitterrand they received a dramatic appeal for help from the east Bosnia Muslim enclave of Gorazde, where dozens of people were reported killed.

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — North Korea defused a crisis by — at least temporarily — reversing its decision to withdraw from a treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

But U.S. and North Korean officials say other nuclear issues remain unresolved. The hardline communist country was to leave the 153-nation treaty Saturday.

Kang Sok Ju, a vice foreign minister, said North Korea had decided to "suspend" its withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), indicating it could change its mind. He said the decision was not a result of U.S. pressure.

"This is not horse-trading," the minister told reporters Friday at the U.N. mission to the United Nations.

After Mr. Kang spoke, Robert Gallucci, assistant U.S. secretary of state for political-military affairs, confirmed Washington had offered no concessions.

"In the near term, there is no change in the current circumstances," Mr. Gallucci said, adding that North Korea still will not allow inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency of two suspected nuclear facilities.

Mr. Gallucci said Washington

is hoping to negotiate full inspection. Further negotiations between the two governments are to resume at a later, unspecified date, he added.

North Korea would have become the first nation to withdraw in the 23-year history of the pact, which provides for nuclear inspections by foreign observers to ensure that nuclear weapons do not spread.

The North announced its pull-out March 12 after barring an inspection of a suspected reactor and reprocessing plant at Yongbyon. The prohibition heightened concern that North Korea, despite its denials, was developing nuclear arms.

United States intelligence reports said North Korea may have the materials to assemble at least one nuclear bomb.

South Korea on Saturday welcomed the decision, but emphasised that inspections, both international and bilateral, were necessary to fully resolve the issue.

If North Korea were to have nuclear weapons, South Korea and Japan might try to develop their own nuclear stockpiles as deterrents.

North Korea's conditions for

staying in the nuclear accord have included cancellation of U.S.-South Korean military exercises, withdrawal of 36,000 U.S. troops from South Korea and a pledge by the United States not to use nuclear weapons in Korea.

Mr. Gallucci said that the talks did not include the possible normalisation of U.S.-North Korean relations. The two governments do not have diplomatic relations.

Protests banned

In Seoul, South Korean riot police sealed off a university campus Saturday and blocked about 4,000 students trying to march to the border with North Korea.

Meanwhile, North Korean radio claimed that 200 people, including a dozen North Korean student leaders, staged an anti-U.S. protest at the border village of Panmunjom.

"Out with U.S. troops," protesters shouted at the border, according to the state-run Naewon Press, which monitors Northern broadcasts.

A South Korean militant student organisation had announced earlier that it planned to meet Northern students at the sealed and heavily fortified Korean border to discuss unification of the divided peninsula.

## Nigerians vote for president

ABUJA (AFP) — Nigerians were voting Saturday to elect their first civilian president in 10 years as the military prepared to return to barracks in August.

The two candidates are both Muslim, millionaire businessmen, and were active in politics in the last period of civilian rule from 1979 to 1983.

But whereas Alhaji Bashir Othman Tafa, 46, the candidate of the centre-right National Republican Convention (NRC) comes from the northern Kano State, Moshood Kashimawo Olawale Adiola, 55, of the centre-left Social Democratic Party, hails from the southwest Yoruba tribe.

While Mr. Tafa was a political unknown before winning the NRC's primary in March, Mr. Adiola is probably the country's best-known businessman and sports promoter.

The two candidates regional origins are expected to influence the outcome, as rivalry between the mainly Christian south and mainly Muslim north is an important issue in Nigerian politics.

About 100 foreign observers, most of them diplomats, were supervising the polls in what is Africa's most populous country. The electoral authorities are using a combination of secret ballots and queuing single-file be-

hind the candidate's name.

The election had gone ahead despite a last-minute postponement order issued by the High Court Thursday in response to a suit by a movement backing an extension of military rule.

The chairman of the National Electoral Commission (NEC), Humphrey Nwosu, said Friday that the court had no constitutional power to make a ruling on the date, time or organisation of the elections.

He said the decision to set aside the court's ruling should not be seen as a violation of the court order, but rather as being in line with the constitution.

## Canadian Conservatives bid Mulroney adieu

OTTAWA (R) — Canada's ruling Conservatives said good-bye Friday to their outgoing leader Prime Minister Brian Mulroney with a glitzy, Hollywood-style tribute in an ice hockey arena.

Some 5,000 Conservatives packed into the stadium to thank Mr. Mulroney for keeping their party in power for almost nine years by leading it to two consecutive electoral victories.

The tribute featured film star Christopher Plummer, composer David Foster and Canadian singers and television personalities. Video messages were screened from U.S. President Bill Clinton, British Prime Minister John Major, French President Francois Mitterrand, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Former U.S. President George Bush praised Mr. Mulroney for being a "stalwart ally" of his country, particularly during the Gulf war in 1991.

Mr. Mulroney, a Quebecer of Irish descent, announced his departure in February after recessing and high unemployment made him Canada's most unpopular postwar leader.

The party will vote Sunday for a new leader who will take over as prime minister and must call elections by autumn.

## China confirms riots in Sichuan

PEKING (R) — China confirmed Saturday that thousands of peasants rioted this month in its most populous province, Sichuan, angered by taxes and fees levied on farmers.

"There were serious incidents of beating, smashing and looting," said Guo Jialong, an official in the foreign affairs office of Sichuan Province in China's southwest.

Guo and his colleagues said in telephone interviews that peasants in Renshou County ran riot over several days, beating officials, blocking traffic, destroying property, burning vehicles and holding a police officer hostage for hours.

The worst clashes were on June

3 and June 6, when more than 10,000 people besieged and attacked government offices, threw rocks at paramilitary troops and burned five vehicles.

The Renshou riot is the most serious recent outbreak of unrest to be confirmed by officials, although rumours of strikes and other incidents occasionally circulate among Chinese sources and western diplomats.

Unrest in the countryside, where 80 per cent of China's 1.2 billion people live, is one of the worst nightmares of the Communist Party, which knows it can stay in power only if it can have enough political stability to guarantee economic progress.

China attacks Patten

China unleashed a fresh attack on Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten Saturday, saying his proposals for more democracy in the colony that returns to Peking's rule in 1997 can never be accepted.

The new verbal assault, in a front-page commentary in the overseas edition of the People's Daily newspaper, comes just before the fifth round of Sino-British negotiations on the issue.

"Chris Patten should be clear that the Chinese government will never compromise on questions of principle," the commentary said.

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"Chris Patten should be clear that the Chinese government will never compromise on questions of principle," the commentary said.

## Cambodian official announces creation of autonomous zone

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — A deputy premier of the Phnom Penh government announced Saturday the creation of an "autonomous zone," grouping seven eastern Cambodian provinces, just as the United Nations said it would reduce its presence there following anti-U.N. demonstrations.

Prince Norodom Chakrapong, announcing the zone's secession from Phnom Penh government-controlled territory at a rally of 600 people in eastern Svay Rieng, also demanded the withdrawal of U.N. peacekeepers from the territory as well as the cessation of U.N. flights over the area.

He called the region the "Samdech Eay Autonomous Zone," or SEAZ, and declared that it had its own "economic and social security system which is not tied to any other political factions."

In the capital, a senior advisor to Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen called the secession "a matter of split views or

approaches" to the government's loss of the U.N. election to the opposition FUNCINPEC party.

"The situation is out of control," Uch Kiman told AFP. "It's pretty disturbing and rather serious."

Prince Chakrapong would not answer when asked whether he had any troops independent of Phnom Penh under his control. U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) chief Yasushi Akashi said the United Nations would "temporarily" reduce U.N. personnel in three of the troubled provinces.

The announcement followed violent anti-U.N. demonstrations and the eviction at gunpoint of more than 100 U.N. civilian police from their districts, who sought refuge in the Kompong Cham and Svay Rieng provincial capitals late Friday, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk went on state-run radio and television to appeal for UNTAC top leave any "potential hotspots in order to avoid bloody conflict," an official at the royal palace said.

"He said he could not be responsible for their safety and he appealed for calm," the official said.

When Hun Sen announced Thursday that just three provinces were seceding, U.N. officials and diplomats dismissed it as a ploy to get more power in a future coalition government.

The government lost last month's U.N. election to the opposition Royalist Party, FUNCINPEC, and the two will be forced to cooperate in order to form a government.

## Armenians push east of Nagorno-Karabakh

MOSCOW (AFP) — Ethnic Armenian forces launched an offensive Saturday in the direction of Agdam, an Azerbaijani town near the eastern border of the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, and inflicted numerous civilian casualties, the Azerbaijani president's office said.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have fought a five-year undeclared war over Nagorno-Karabakh, populated mainly by Christian Armenians but located inside Muslim Azerbaijan.

Meanwhile, rebel Azerbaijani troops Saturday took control of the central city of Yevlakh and were heading south towards the neighbouring city of Barda, news agencies reported.

The reports, quoting the Azerbaijani defence ministry, said regular Azerbaijani army units were taking no military action to stop the rebel forces, which last week took control of the city of Gyandzha.

The ministry accused the commander of the rebel forces, Suret Guseinov, of violating a truce agreed to late Friday and said officials from Baku were to have met with rebel leaders Saturday to sign a ceasefire.

demand that they pull their troops out of the Kelbadzhar corridor — a strip of Azerbaijani territory lying between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia which was captured by Armenian forces in early April.

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## Kinkel outlines election strategy for Liberals

MUNSTER, Germany (R) — The new leader of Germany's free democrats (FDP), Klaus Kinkel, urged his party Saturday to back economic austerity and citizenship for foreigners living here.

Making his first full policy speech since his election Friday, Mr. Kinkel denounced neo-Nazis "blinded by beer and swastikas" and said Bonn must respond to racist violence by quickly integrating long-settled foreigners.

Warning of a record run of elections in Germany next year, Mr. Kinkel — the foreign minister in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's three-party coalition — appealed to the party to put aside disputes and support him in confronting the challenges ahead.

"I want to fight and I want to lead," declared Mr. Kinkel, 56, a top bureaucrat who joined the FDP two years ago and emerged as leader after scandals and party disputes sidelined his rivals.

"I stand for the FDP as a team," he said. "Go your own

way and fight each other is not my motto."

He joined a chorus of FDP members urging Hans-Dietrich Genscher, former foreign minister and still the most popular figure in the small party, to seek the respected post of German president next year. Mr. Genscher has repeatedly declined.

The FDP, long the kingmaker in Bonn but now threatened with "also ran" status after a general election in October 1994, will need a more convincing leadership and policies to get through 19 state, National and European parliament polls next year.

Opinion polls say the FDP has slumped to six to seven per cent support after winning 11 per cent in the 1990 election with a campaign slogan that said nothing more than "elect Genscher."

Mr. Kinkel called for "a decisive about-turn in financial policy" including deep cuts in subsidies inflating the federal budget.

## Japanese who lost memory returns after 56 years

TOKYO (R) — An elderly Japanese who lost his memory after being wounded in China before World War II is returning home after 56 years, news reports said Saturday. Toshiro Ishida, a frail 81-year-old, flew into Osaka late Friday with his brother Kijuro, 63. Mr. Ishida, whose identity was confirmed by DNA tests, lost most of his memory and the ability to speak after being hit in the head by a bullet shortly before Japan and China went to war in 1937, the news reports said.

The reports did not give details of the shooting. A civilian employee of Japan's former imperial army that controlled much of China during the war, Mr. Ishida was captured by Chinese communist troops and went missing. He later earned a living by teaching agricultural techniques using geese, the reports said.

Members of a Japan-China friendship group discovered Mr. Ishida two years ago and Japanese doctors identified him through DNA tests. His brother told reporters that they would fly back to their home town in Akita prefecture, northern Japan, on Saturday.

## Court allows ancient religion's ritual of animal sacrifice

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. supreme court ruled Friday that a community's ban on animal sacrifices in church rituals violates religious freedom. The highest court struck down a ban on such rituals at Haleah, Fla., and said religious groups have a constitutional right to sacrifice animals in worship services. "The laws in question were enacted by officials who did not understand, failed to perceive or chose to ignore the fact that their official actions violated the nation's essential commitment to religious freedom," Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote for the court.

"We conclude, in sum, that each of Haleah's ordinances purports the city's governmental interests only against conduct motivated by religious belief," Mr. Kennedy wrote. The unanimous decision drew immediate praise and denunciation. "This is a stunning victory for freedom of religion," said Robyn Blumner of the Florida American Civil Liberties Union. "This reaffirms the right of every citizen to engage in religious practices consistent with his or her conscience." But Roger Caras, president of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, called the ruling "an obscene, bizarre and disastrous mistake."

## Police officer's nose bitten off in fight

ITHACA, N.Y. (AP) — A man bit off the tip of a police officer's nose Friday when the officer intervened in a domestic dispute. Officers Jay Vanvolkinburg and Donald Barker attempted to arrest Ishka Alpern on charges of assaulting his girlfriend. Police said Alpern gouged Barker's eyes and tried to grab his revolver, then bit Mr. Vanvolkinburg on the arm and nose. Mr. Vanvolkinburg was sent to Tompkins County Hospital to repair the end of his nose, which was severed during the scuffle, police said. Between 75 and 100 people gathered and tried to interfere with the arrest, but state police, sheriff's deputies and other officers restored order. Mr. Barker was treated and released at a hospital. Mr. Alpern faced arraignment on charges of assault, weapons possession and resisting arrest.

## Dozen Children of God members charged with corrupting kids

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, France (AP) — Twelve members of the sect known as the Children of God were charged Friday with inciting minors to debauchery and some 40 children were placed in state custody, officials said. Nine other adult members of the sect from elsewhere in France were to be questioned before Monday. The eight women and four men charged in this southern town were freed on their own recognisance. They were among more than 50 members of the sect detained Wednesday along with 138 children in eight French towns. The action followed an investigation opened in February 1991 into reports of child abuse that included allegations of rape. Court officials said there were no grounds for the more serious charges. But they said documents seized pertaining to the sect's sexual education of children and practices, as well as drawings made by the children, provided grounds for the indictment. The Children of God sect was officially dissolved in France in 1978 but was reborn under the name Families Without Borders. The 12 charged include French, Danish, Dutch, Spanish, British, Belgians, Canadians and Americans.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Floods kill 42 in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Bangladesh army troops are on alert to evacuate tens of thousands of people marooned after a week of flooding that has killed 42, officials and news reports said Saturday. The most recent deaths from the monsoon-spawned floods came Friday when eight people drowned after their boat capsized in a river in Sylhet, 192 kilometres northeast of Dhaka, news reports said. The floods have hit more than 1.5 million people in the rice-and-tea-growing northeastern districts of Sylhet, Habiganj and Moulvibazar, the relief control centre in Dhaka said. Roads between Dhaka and the northeastern have been severed the past six days. At least one third affected people are in bad shape, many of them living on roofs of tin-shed houses or on raised makeshift bamboo structures.

### Thai government survives no-confidence moves

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Despite allegations ranging from sex scandals to stock market manipulations, the opposition failed Saturday in its bid to censure the coalition government of Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai. Voting on two non-confidence motions was preceded by three days of nationally televised parliamentary debate, which often veered from political issues into the private lives of MPs and government leaders. A censure motion against the government as a whole was knocked down by a 204-151 vote while the second motion against five individual ministers was likewise defeated in five separate votes. Opposition parties had accused the five-party ruling coalition of being generally ineffective, failing to boost export earnings and not taking concrete measures to help the country's poor, particularly farmers. Opposition leader Pramarn Adireksarn of the Chat Thai Party also charged that the government had failed to protect Thailand's dignity by giving in too easily to pressure from the United States to crack down on piracy of copyrights and other intellectual property.

### Opposition sets up barricades in Congo

BRAZZAVILLE (AFP) — Opposition demonstrators threw up barricades here Saturday as President Pascal Lissouba was reportedly preparing to name a prime minister after disputed legislative elections. Gun shots were heard overnight in two areas of the Congolese capital, sources said. In the Baongo and Talangai areas, opposition supporters set up barricades to close off streets and protect the homes of opposition leader Bernard Kolelas and former military ruler Denis Sassou-Nguesso. Traffic on the street leading to the World Health Organisation (WHO) regional headquarters was blocked as demonstrators placed tyres and car parts along the road. Public transport was also interrupted with bus and taxi drivers having stayed home. In the town central most of shops were closed. A bakery owned by a Lebanese immigrant was set on fire. But as of midnight police had not intervened. The demonstrations came a day after the interior ministry unexpectedly issued the results of a controversial second round of voting which gave Mr. Lissouba's supporters an overall

majority in parliament. A source said Saturday that Mr. Lissouba was about to appoint a prime minister to form Congo's next government.

### Graves of 163 executed prisoners found

TAIPEI (AFP) — The graves of 163 dissidents executed and buried by Taiwan authorities during the "White Terror" of the 1950s have been found in a cemetery, an independent MP said Saturday. Lin Cheng-Chieh told a press conference the brother of one of the victims met an elderly gravedigger by chance on May 28 and received information which led to his brother's grave and those of other dissidents nearby. Most had been long neglected, and overgrown with grass and bushes. Mr. Lin said most of dead were executed between 1950 and 1952, when the country's politics were dominated by a witchhunt for dissidents. All of them had been accused of subversion or plotting to overthrow the government, he added.

### Yeltsin: Russia is getting over its crisis

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin greeted Russia's Independence Day holiday Saturday with fewer promises of fast economic recovery for his countrymen and a tougher message to the West. He told a televised news conference to mark the national holiday and the second anniversary of his election that Russia was over the worst of its economic crisis. But, he said, no dramatic improvement could be expected this year. "The economic situation is not getting worse and will not do so," Mr. Yeltsin said, but added later: "Once, addressing a rally, I promised an economic recovery in 1992. It did not happen and let us hope that, at best, the economy will stabilise in 1993." Mr. Yeltsin followed his cautious estimation of Russia's economic prospects with a strong warning to the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial nations. "The main goal that I'm setting for the meeting with the G-7 is to put an end to discrimination against Russia," Mr. Yeltsin said in a reference to G-7 summit in Tokyo next month. "How much longer can you continue regarding Russia as a communist country," he added.

### NGOs stage rally over Dalai Lama ban

VIENNA (AFP) — Some 300 delegates from non-governmental human rights organisations staged a noisy demonstration here Saturday to protest a U.N. decision to prevent the Dalai Lama from addressing them. The demonstration, called by organisations from the Asia-Pacific region, Africa and Latin America — the so-called South NGOs — was also intended to vent anger and frustration over several other issues to organisers of the World Conference on Human Rights, which opens in Vienna's Austria Centre Monday. NGO delegates waved banners and posters bearing the slogans "Let the Dalai Lama speak," "No to U.N. ban" and "A is for Austria but not accessibility." Demonstrators circled the main entrance to centre and chanted "Don't silence NGOs" before going back inside for the plenary session of their forum.





## Lebanon likely to join Damascus declaration

ABU DHABI (AP) — Eight Arab countries opened a two-day meeting Saturday after reportedly giving their initial approval for Lebanon to join their post-Gulf war security and economic pact.

The foreign ministers of the eight states met to discuss the future of the March 1991 pact, called the Damascus declaration, and to seek ways to heal rifts in the Arab World.

"This meeting is held amid sincere wishes for improving inter-Arab relations and coping with the call for forgiveness, solidarity and patching up Arab differences," the United Arab Emirates (UAE) foreign minister, Rashid Abdullah, said in an opening address.

After a brief opening ceremony at the Abu Dhabi Intercontinental Hotel, a short closed-door session was attended by the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the UAE.

Diplomats here said the foreign ministers were likely to recommend to their leaders to accept the Damascus declaration, and address had given initial approval.

Farouk Al Sharaa of Syria and Sheikh Mohammad Ben Mubarak of Bahrain already have openly supported Lebanon's bid to join the pact.

When it was signed two years ago the agreement was to pave the way for tens of thousands of Egyptian and Syrian troops to form the nucleus of a Gulf defence force.

That plan has not come to fruition and Gulf states instead

have signed defence agreements with Western nations. But the economic dimension of the Damascus pact remains, with Gulf states offering billions of dollars in aid to their poorer Arab brethren over the next few years.

"Syria will be among the first supporters of Lebanon's joining the declaration when the issue is discussed," Mr. Sharaa said in an arrival statement.

"Bahrain supports the Lebanese request on the basis that this grouping is established on Arab solidarity within the framework of the Arab League," said Sheikh Mohammad.

"The sister country of Lebanon is facing a critical juncture in its history, and it has adopted Arab stances which entitle it to join the grouping and work with us in the march for Arab solidarity."

The diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the six Gulf Arab countries already had discussed the Lebanese request at a foreign ministers' meeting in Riyadh earlier in the week. But they decided not to take action until they meet with their Egyptian and Syrian counterparts.

Lebanon, which has close links with Syria, expressed its wish to sign the declaration a few months back in statements by Foreign Minister Faris Bouez, the diplomats said.

Diplomats said the eight ministers also will discuss the crucial issue of Gulf security, especially Iran's relations with the Gulf Arab states following the agreement of Iran and the UAE to resume talks on three disputed islands.

## Algeria said planning referendum in October

ALGIERS (AP) — Algerians may get to vote in a referendum in October for a transitional authority to replace the military-backed government that cancelled their last elections.

Newspapers reported Saturday that the ruling High State Council and political parties should hold a national conference July 5 focused on setting up a new government and the referendum.

The banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) will not take part.

The referendum plans reported in the press came after a dinner for editors hosted by two high

state council members, Redha Malek and Ali Haroun. They have not been officially confirmed.

According to the press accounts, the national conference will start work July 5 to draft a "platform" for a transitional authority to run from two to five years.

The ruling panel would be reduced from five members to three. The unelected, advisory consultative committee drawn from different sectors of society would be increased from 60 to up to 300 members.

## U.N. forces pound Aideed bases

(Continued from page 1)

ledged Gen. Aideed may have plenty more hidden away. "He's not out of business, but I bet he's pretty shaky today," said U.S. Major General Thomas Montgomery, deputy commander of the more than 18,000 U.N.

peacekeepers in Somalia.

But a defiant spokesman for Gen. Aideed warned the attack would lead to more unrest. And a Somali radio broadcast was heard hurling abuse at the U.N. troops for the attack, calling them "imperialist boot-lickers."

## Delegates head for Washington

(Continued from page 1)

(JVA) and a water specialist; Mohammad Bani Hani, the serving JVA head; Abdullah Touqan, an environmental expert and advisor to the King who headed Jordan's team to multilateral talks on disarmament; ambassadors Hassan Abu N'meh, Shaker Arabiyat and Nayef Al Qadhi; Awn Khasasneh, advisor to the Crown Prince; Brigadier-General Abdul Ilah Al Kurdi from the General Intelligence Department; Musa Breizat from the Royal Court; and Marwan Muasher, who heads the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington. Dr. Muasher is also spokesman of the delegation.

Advisors to the delegation are Taher Kanaan, former minister; Ibrahim Badran, advisor at the Prime Ministry; Wasef Azar, former director general of the Jordanian Phosphates Mines Co.; Ahmad Qatanani, former director of the Department of Palestinian Affairs; Hani Al Mulki, president of the Royal Scientific Society and chairman of the Higher Council of Science and Technology; Duraid Mahasneh, director general of the Ports Corporation; Michel Marto, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan; Mohammad Alwan, a professor of international affairs at Yarmouk University; and Hisham Baban, legal advisor at the Crown Prince's office.

The advisors will join the delegation only when needed.

Heads of Arab delegations to the peace talks are expected to hold a meeting in Washington prior to opening the bilateral talks Tuesday to exchange views and coordinate stands on the peace process.

## Majali reassures Arabiyat

(Continued from page 1)

should be held at the request of 41 deputies or more.

Dr. Arabiyat said he received many assurances from government that proper "consultations" would be held if changes were to be made on the law.

"All are committed to the Constitution and the sovereignty of the three authorities (of government) ... everything will be done in accordance with the Constitution and nobody has announced intentions to bypass it," Dr. Arabiyat said on possible mechanisms for changing the Election Law if such a change was to be made.

His Majesty King Hussein said last week that no change to the law will be introduced without consultations with all political groups through a process similar to the one through which the National Charter was adopted.

Dr. Majali said on several occasions that the legislation

will not be changed without "consultations in which everybody would participate."

The Muslim Brotherhood, which has the largest bloc at the House, said consultation was a broad term and that "as far as we are concerned, Parliament is the forum for consultations."

"Consultations would be carried through the official channels. That was emphasised during today's meeting with the prime minister," Dr. Arabiyat said.

Dr. Arabiyat said the official channels include House.

"The Lower House is in recess but its mandate is not over. Any legislative matter is among the duties of the House and will be an issue for discussion between the two authorities through the official channels," Dr. Arabiyat said after the meeting, which the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said, also discussed the democratic process in general and means of strengthening it.

## S. Arabia reportedly drops Israel boycott

TEL AVIV (AP) — An American Jewish leader said Saturday that Saudi Arabian officials told him the kingdom has quietly dropped its longstanding indirect trade boycott against Israel.

Saudi officials said that about a year ago their country stopped blacklisting companies doing business with Israel, said Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress.

"Saudi Arabia has made no public announcement, but it has said it doesn't apply the secondary and tertiary boycott and hasn't done so for some time," Mr. Siegman told the Associated Press.

Mr. Siegman said the Saudis told him they would continue their ban on doing direct trade with Israel until an Arab-Israeli peace settlement is reached.

Mr. Siegman said his sources were knowledgeable Saudi officials with whom he met in the United States earlier this week. He would not identify them further.

Earlier this week, Kuwait announced that it would stop blacklisting countries doing business with Israel, but continue its direct trade boycott against the Jewish state.

Since the Gulf war, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have been under growing U.S. pressure to stop participating in the Arab boycott.

"It is clear that both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia found it increasingly difficult to sustain the boycott after the Gulf war," Mr. Siegman said.

For some time, Saudi Arabia has been quietly allowing companies of particular interest to operate despite the blacklist. Because of Saudi Arabia's influence within Arab ranks, the Damascus-based head office of the Arab Boycott of Israel would sometimes accommodate the Saudis and remove those companies from the list without publicising the reasons.

## Fresh stand-off brews between Iraq and U.N.

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — U.N. experts Saturday appeared set for a standoff with Iraq after delaying their departure until they can install cameras at rocket test sites.

The U.N. team cancelled its planned departure on Friday after Baghdad attached conditions to monitoring at Yawm Al Azim, 65 kilometres south of Baghdad, and at Rafah, 65 kilometres southeast of the capital.

Team leader Nikita Smidovitch said Friday that he had received instructions from the U.N. special commission (UNSCOM) for Iraq's disarmament in New York to stay in Iraq as long as necessary.

"There's no deadline, but they (Iraqis) know specifically what we are asking for and this issue was reported by UNSCOM's executive chairman to the Security Council," he said.

"Iraq would like to postpone the installation of the cameras until there is a dialogue with the special commission on the broader subjects of relations between Baghdad and UNSCOM," Mr. Smidovitch said.

"I hope they will finally change their position and allow us to proceed with the installation of these cameras," he said.

Mr. Smidovitch said Saturday he was still waiting for an Iraqi

answer to his request about installing the cameras which he made when he arrived in Baghdad on June 4.

"We have not heard anything from the Iraqis," he said. "We're expecting a positive answer."

The cameras are "to monitor no prohibited activity is taking place," he said.

Asked about the capacity of the cameras, Mr. Smidovitch said they "can perform the function of registering events both on site as well as here in the UNSCOM office in Baghdad."

U.N. officials said Iraq was violating U.N. Resolution 715, which was passed after the 1991 Gulf war and calls for Iraq to allow U.N. observers to monitor its weapons facilities to ensure the elimination of all its weapons of mass-destruction.

The resolution includes a ban on missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometres — like the Scuds fired on Saudi Arabia and Israel during the Gulf war.

On Friday, Iraq asked the U.N. it wanted the camera issue to be included in a package it intends to review with the U.N. special commission.

Mr. Smidovitch said Baghdad had also not yet complied with another U.N. demand to destroy chemical production equipment that may be used for prohibited purposes.

## Briton, German jailed in Iraq after border arrest

LONDON (AP) — A Briton was jailed for eight years by Iraqi government after being arrested at gunpoint on the Kuwait-Iraq border, the Foreign Office said Saturday.

The man, whose name was not released at the request of his family, was detained with a German at Umm Qasr on May 28 and sentenced in Baghdad on June 6, a spokeswoman said, requesting anonymity.

The Briton was imprisoned for allegedly entering the country, she said. Details on the German were not immediately available.

The Foreign Office described the sentence as outrageous and totally disproportionate to the alleged crime.

Two other Britons already are incarcerated at Abu Ghraib prison, on the outskirts of Baghdad, for illegally entering Iraq.

Iraq has refused to free Paul Ride and Michael Wainwright unless London hands over millions of dollars worth of Iraqi assets seized during the Gulf war.

Britain has refused to turn over the asset until Iraq complies fully with U.N. resolutions related to the Gulf war. Ties between London and Baghdad have been broken since the war.

Mr. Ride, a 33-year-old chef from London working in Kuwait, said he wandered into Iraq after getting lost near the border. He was sentenced to seven years after his arrest at the border in August.

Mr. Wainwright, 42, of Sowbery Bridge, is serving a 10-year term. He was arrested in May after crossing from Turkey into the Kurdish-controlled area of northern Iraq while on a cycling trip to Australia. He said Iraqi guards let him in.

## Text of U.N. statement on Somalia

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Following is the text of a United Nations statement officially confirming the attacks by U.N. peacekeepers in the Somali capital of Mogadishu. It was read to the press by Kofi Annan, the U.N. undersecretary-general in charge of peacekeeping.

"At approximately 4 a.m. local time (Saturday), the U.N. operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) military force began a decisive action to restore security in Mogadishu."

"It is well known that Somalia has been awash with weapons, creating a climate of general insecurity which first UNITAF (American-led Unified Task Force) and then UNOSOM II tried to rectify. Regrettably, the situation deteriorated and led to unprovoked armed attacks against UNOSOM II personnel on 5 June."

"The action undertaken by UNOSOM II should be seen in the context of the international community's commitment to the national disarmament programme endorsed by all Somali parties. The United Nations is deter-

mined to continue working with responsible Somali leaders and factions to eliminate the heavy weapons which have been used to terrorise the Somali people for so long."

"This action has been authorised by the secretary-general in pursuance of Security Council Resolution 837 of 6 June, in particular paragraphs 3 and 5."

"The Security Council also authorised the investigation of the attacks of 5 June and the arrest and detention of those responsible. UNOSOM II is continuing its investigations and will take any measures that might become necessary."

"The intention of the action taken by UNOSOM II is to stabilise a situation which was deteriorating and to enable steps to be taken toward the restoration of normal conditions. It should be kept in mind that UNOSOM II was sent to Somalia to implement the wish of the international community to help the Somali people to rehabilitate their society from the grievous damage it had suffered from internal strife between various factions over the last two years."



'AMERICAN-MADE': Harley Davidson motorcycle rider Ron Stratman of South Dakota rides his bike while dressed as a buffalo Friday at the 90th anniversary for the U.S. made vehicles.

Up to 100,000 Harley riders from around the world are attending the week-long celebrations (AFP photo)

## Talabani denies reports of disorder in Kurdistan

DAMASCUS (AP) — A top Kurdish leader has denied allegations of disorder in Iraqi Kurdistan and said such claims could be used by Baghdad as an excuse to attack the enclave in northern Iraq.

Jalal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, invited reporters in an interview late Friday to visit the Kurdish-held areas of northern Iraq to "see the situation on the spot."

Mr. Talabani alluded to the final statement of a meeting in Tehran of the foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey and Syria earlier this month as the source of the allegations of unrest.

"Such allegations would give an excuse for Saddam Hussein to attack the Kurdish people in the north under the pretext of removing the alleged chaos there," he said.

Iraq's 3.5 million Kurds have established their own government in northern Iraq under the protection of Western allies who banned Iraqi planes north of the 36th Parallel after a failed Kurdish rebellion following the 1991 Gulf war. A similar "no-fly" zone to protect Shi'ite Muslims in southern Iran has been close to partitioning Iraq into three parts.

However, the de facto state is facing severe economic problems due to the continued U.N. trade embargo on Iraq, a special embargo by Iraq to prevent its trade with the rest of Iraq, and Baghdad's cancellation of millions of dollars worth of prewar currency held by the Kurds.

The military also applies pressure from the south with huge troop buildups along the boundaries of the Kurdish zone.

Mr. Talabani said Iraqi Kurdistan enjoys the most democratic system in the Middle East.

"Human rights are preserved for all residents of northern Iraq," Mr. Talabani said.

He said it would have been better for the ministers attending the Tehran meeting, where the danger of Iraq's becoming partitioned, to have sent a fact-finding committee to understand the situation there.

"Are the Turks or Iranians really keen to maintain the unity of Iraq?" Mr. Talabani said. "I do not know who wants to partition Iraq, but what I am sure of is that Syria is the only country which does not seek such a goal. I will leave the question of who is seeking to tear the unity of Iraq for Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati to answer."

There has been speculation that Tehran would like to see a Shi'ite state established in southern Iraq, despite its official insistence that the country should remain whole.

Mr. Talabani who arrived in Damascus Friday after a long tour of Europe, the United States and Saudi Arabia, said he was upset by the news of renewed fighting between Turkish forces and the fighters of the outlawed Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) of Abdullah Ocalan.

In March, Mr. Ocalan announced a unilateral ceasefire in his nine-year guerrilla war with the Turkish government, saying he was ready for peace talks with Ankara.

"I am very sorry for the military escalation between the Kurds and Turks in Turkey," Mr. Talabani said, adding that any peace process requires "sacrifices."

Asked about a possible meeting in Damascus of various Iraqi opposition groups, Mr. Talabani said he would meet Mohammad Bakr Al Hakim, leader of the Shi'ite, Tehran-based Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, who is on a visit to Damascus.

## U.S. hits Turkey on human rights, but sells arms anyway

ANKARA (AP) — The United States raised questions Saturday about Turkey's human rights record, but went ahead anyway and allowed its North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) ally to purchase \$277 million in helicopters and attack aircraft.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, on his first official visit, said human rights were a U.S. priority but ties with Turkey, a close ally, were based on "many other factors."

He also admitted that America's own human rights record was flawed.

Mr. Christopher also notified Turkish officials that another \$59 million worth of equipment that no longer has U.S. military use will be transferred to Turkey.

A senior U.S. official said the United States would propose "benchmarks" for Turkey to observe in its treatment of prisoners and in other areas of concern.

The U.S. State Department, in its most recent human rights report, accused Turkey of widespread rights violations.

Acting Prime Minister Erdal Inonu, posing for pictures with Mr. Christopher before the two began talks on expanding U.S.-Turkish ties, defended Turkey's record "as good as any democratic system in the world."

"I challenge any country to come up to us and say they have a better human rights record," he said.

But, Mr. Inonu added: "That doesn't make it perfect."

Mr. Christopher, before shooting reporters from the room, said "our record in the United States is in no perfect either."

U.S. State Department officials said their main concerns were reports of torture during police questioning and conditions in Turkish prisons.

The situation is awkward for the Clinton administration. Turkey, a staunch U.S. ally in NATO, stood out among the Europeans in supporting a U.S. proposal for tougher military measures against Bosnian Serbs.

Turkish planes help patrol the skies over Bosnia and over protected areas of Iraq.

Helsinki Watch, a private human rights group, said in April that it was disturbed by a continuing pattern of suspicious deaths in southeast Turkey where most of the nation's Kurdish minority lives.

The Turkish government has said "unknown assailants" were responsible for killings in areas under emergency rule.

Helsinki Watch also reported in February that 20 people died in police custody in 1992 and early 1993.

Mr. Christopher said he and Turkish officials would discuss an "expanded partnership" between the United States and Turkey to "deepen our economic and political ties and continue our close military relationship."

But, Mr. Inonu added: "That doesn't make it perfect."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israel seeks ways to protect collaborators

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli intelligence, military and police officials are searching for ways to protect the lives of Palestinians who collaborate with them, television reported on Friday. They have formed a committee to protect the collaborators and their families from militant Palestinian groups West Bank and Gaza Strip, it said.

### Arab leaders to hold summit on extremism

CAIRO (AFP) — The Egyptian, Tunisian and Algerian presidents are to hold a summit here to discuss the fight against Muslim fundamentalist "terrorism," the official Egyptian news agency reported Saturday. Presidents Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia and Ali Kafi of Algeria will hold their talks ahead of a summit of the Organisation of African Unity, which opens here on June 28. All three accuse Iran and Sudan of sponsoring fundamentalist unrest.

### Search under way for missing Israeli girl

TEL AVIV (AFP) — More than 300 policemen, soldiers and volunteers searched Saturday for an Israeli teenage girl who went missing while hitchhiking. Rinit Qikor, 17, from Ofakim in the desert, was last seen trying to hitch a lift to the nearby town of Beersheba. One of her shoes was found on Saturday and identified by her mother, police said.

### Guerrillas fire rockets at Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Guerrillas fired Katyusha rockets into northern Israel overnight in the first such attack in three months, triggering a retaliatory artillery attack, the army said. Troops found debris from the rockets in fields, and there were no casualties. Security sources in South Lebanon said five rockets were lobbed across the border from strongholds of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah movement. Artillery pounded guerrilla positions in retaliation, the army said.

### Security Council extends Cyprus mandate

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The Security Council extended Friday the mandate of U.N. peacekeeping forces in Cyprus for six months, ending December 15, 1993. The council unanimously adopted the resolution extending the mandate and urging the Cypriot-Greek and Cypriot-Turk communities to take reciprocal measures to ease tensions.

### Ghana arrests hijack suspect

ACCRA (R) — Ghana has arrested a Palestinian wanted for the 1985 hijacking of an Egyptian airliner in which 60 people died, a Foreign Ministry source said Friday. Mohammad Ali Rezak, a Lebanese resident, was arrested at Accra's Kotoka airport two weeks ago as he tried to board a flight to Sudan, the source told Reuters. Three gunmen hijacked the Egyptian plane on a flight from Athens to Cairo. The aircraft landed in Malta, where the hijackers shot dead five passengers. The remaining victims died in crossfire when Egyptian commandos stormed the plane. Among the dead were American and Ghanaian citizens. The United States protested when Malta freed Rezak last February after he had served seven years of a 25-year sentence.

## COLUMN

### Group releases survey measuring anti-black attitudes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans between 18 and 30 are more likely to hold negative attitudes toward blacks than those between ages 30 to 49, according to a study released by a group which fights racial and ethnic discrimination. But the study said Americans over 50 are more likely to hold anti-black views than any other age group. "The finding concerning younger adults is disturbing and seems to reverse earlier findings that younger, more educated Americans were less likely to hold prejudiced views," said Abraham Foxman, the national director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai B'rith. The ADL study also found that Americans who hold the most negative attitudes toward Jews also are the most likely to hold negative feelings about blacks, immigrants, illegal aliens, homosexuals and women. About 600 people were interviewed by phone for the survey, conducted in October and November by the Boston-based firm of Martilla and Killey. The study has a margin of error of 3 percentage points. Thirty-five per cent of survey respondents over 50 were classified as being in the group considered most prejudiced, compared with 23 per cent of those age 30 to 49, and 31 per cent under 30. Thirty-eight per cent of all white respondents said blacks are more prone to violence than people of other races, and 35 per cent of whites said they believe blacks generally prefer to accept welfare than work for a living. Twenty-nine per cent of whites said blacks are "too loud and pushy," and one in five whites said blacks were not as "hard-working" as everyone else.

### Chinese mayor, tax bureau director fired in huge fraud case

PEKING (AP) — The mayor and a tax official of a city in eastern China have been fired for bilking the government out of 12 million yuan (\$2.1 million), an official report said Saturday. Chen Huiyuan, mayor of Xianning in Hubei Province, and Xian Chuan-sheng, director of the taxation bureau, were expelled from the Communist Party and local government, the Xinhua news agency reported. It said Mr. Yin, who participated directly in the fraud, is also under criminal investigation. The case was reported on the front page of the People's Daily, the party newspaper. Xianning factories took advantage of the government's policy of returning taxes on goods for export and, with the collaboration of the tax bureau, produced fake tax receipts to get refunds totalling 9.78 million yuan (\$1.72 million). A fifth factory, backed by the mayor, received 2.44 million yuan (\$428,800) in tax refunds from fake tax receipts. The report did not say if the tax refunds were recovered.

### Film director, violinist, war hero on honours list

LONDON (AP) — American-born violinist Sir Yehudi Menuhin and film director Sir Richard Attenborough were tapped to join the House of Lords in Queen Elizabeth II's birthday honours list released Friday. They were among about a thousand Britons from the well-known to the unknown, honoured in a two-yearly ritual Prime Minister John Major has overhauled as part of his promise of a classless society. Sir Menuhin, 77, who was knighted in 1965, said he looked forward to serving in the House of Lords, which he said has a mission to "represent people rather than parties." "My own contribution can, of necessity, only be minor, but I shall strive to be worthy of this great honour bestowed upon me by Her Majesty's government," Sir Menuhin said.

### Police arrest man who drugged drivers, then robbed them

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Police Saturday reported the arrest of a man they said mixed sleeping pills into lunch boxes and then robbed drivers who subsequently fell asleep. Officers arrested Lai Hong-Teng, 41, at his home in Taichung in central Taiwan. Police said Mr. Lai slipped ground sleeping pills into lunch boxes sold at stores, then followed his victims and robbed them when they pulled over to sleep in rest areas. Police said Mr. Lai, dubbed the "sleeping pill robber" by the press, had robbed about 60 people since April. There was no estimate of the total amount of money involved.